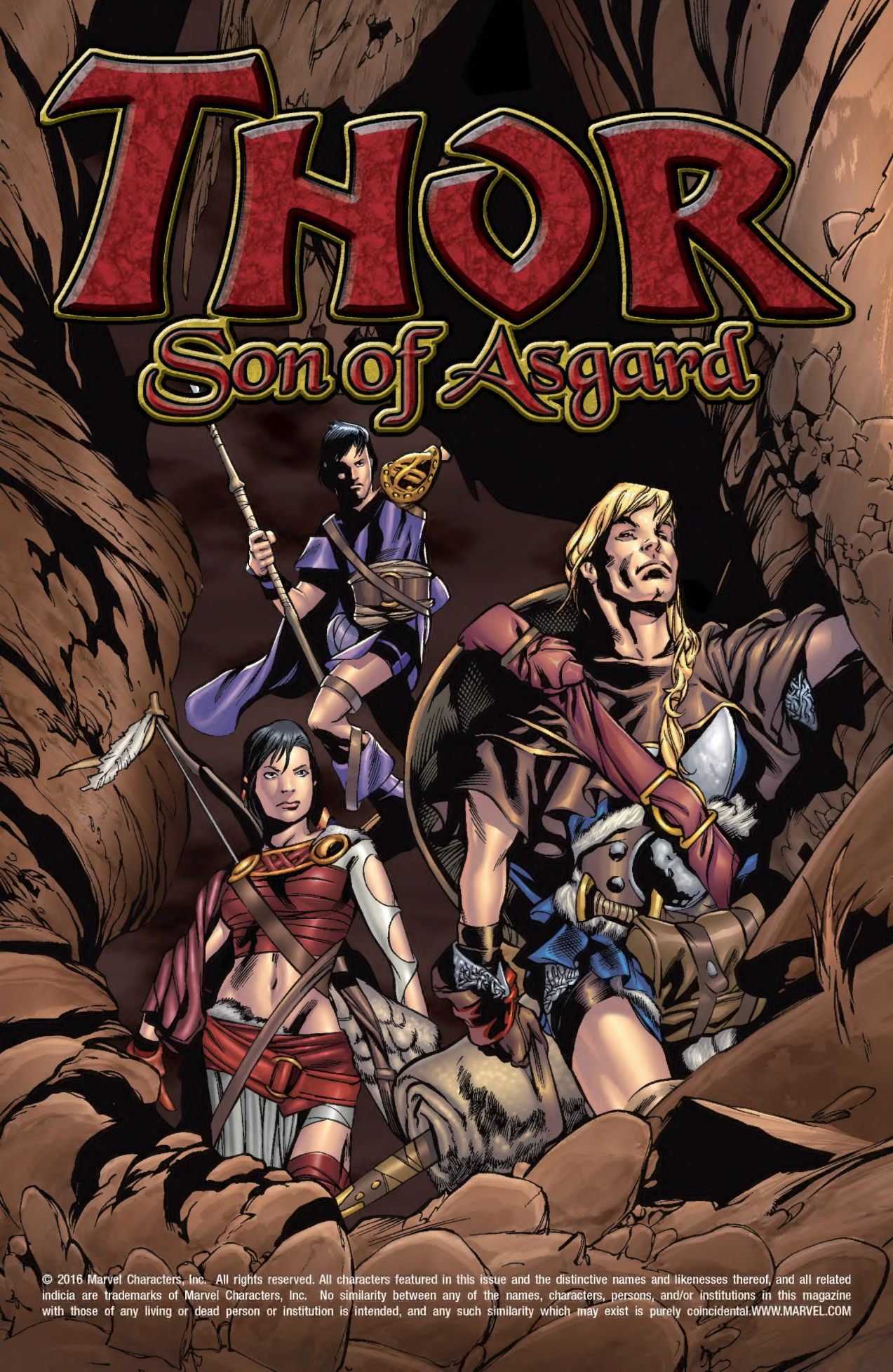
MARVEL
THOR
Son of Asgard
YOSHIDA • TOCCHINI



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THOR
Son of Asgard

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Asgard. Home of the mighty Norse gods...
"To enter the Kingdom of Asgard is no easy task. We must first cross Bifrost, the mystic Rainbow Bridge, the sole entrance to the eternal city and its surrounding lands.
"We may only cross the shimmering expanse into Asgard if given pass by the ever-vigilant Heimdall, guardian of the Bridge."

"If granted passage across the technicolor trestle, we continue on to the towering Gates of Asgard.

"And through the Gates stands the City of Asgard!

"While the streets of the city twist and turn in seemingly every direction, all roads in Asgard lead to but one place...

The Square of the All-Father.

"The central gathering place for the denizens of Asgard, used for occasions and events of all kinds; for the gathering of troops before war; for celebrations in times of victory; for the issuance of imperial decrees.

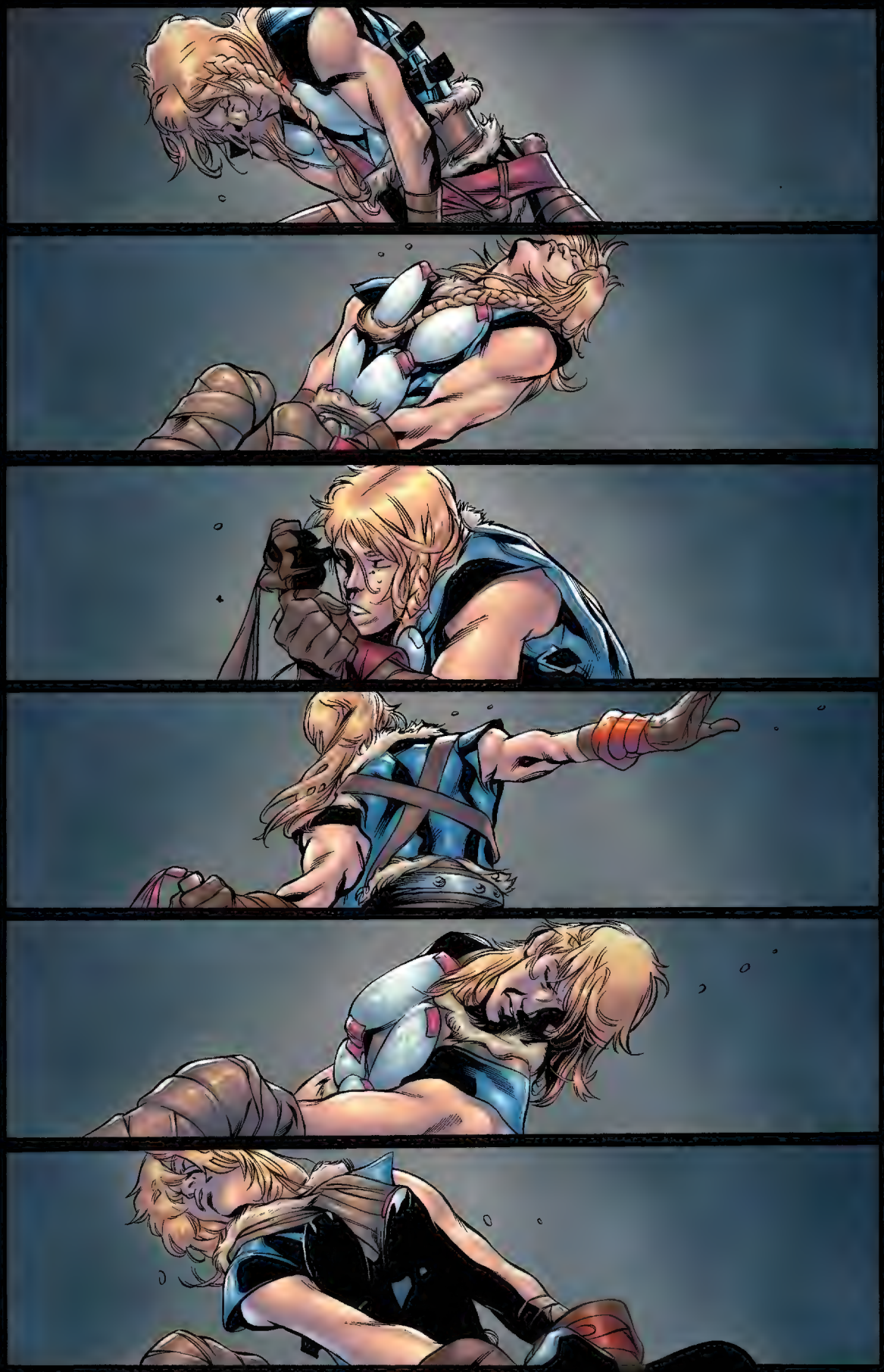
"Designed to win respect and establish absolute authority, the revered square is a place of power, which is, not surprisingly, located directly at the foot of..."

The Imperial Palace of Asgard!
"After crossing the threshold through the main entrance of the palace, we emerge in the Great Hall of Heroes. Lined with memorials to warriors who have given their lives in blind service to Asgard, this Hall leads to the ultimate seat of power.
"Behind the Doors of Dramir lies the throne room of...
"Odin, the All-Father, King of all Asgard!"

"From his majestic throne, Odin rules Asgard and the lands beyond with the wisdom, cunning and compassion he has learned over countless years.
"A cabinet of trusted advisors aid him in governing the day-to-day affairs of the kingdom...
"...and a contingent of savvy warriors help him keep the peace and protect his lands from outside threats.
"Odin's rule extends far and wide across the Nine Worlds. His attention is often required on many matters and in many places at the same time.
"But, there are some things that, occasionally, manage to escape the gaze of even the most omniscient ruler..."

"Evil things.
"Things hiding behind the closest of doors.
"Things roaming the closest of hallways...
UUUNNGGHH!!!
"Crouching behind the closest of corners...
"Lurking in the closest of rooms..."
UUUNNGGHH!!!

"Reaching for those we often hold dearest in our hearts."
UUUNNNGGGHHH!!
HAHA HAHAHA HA!

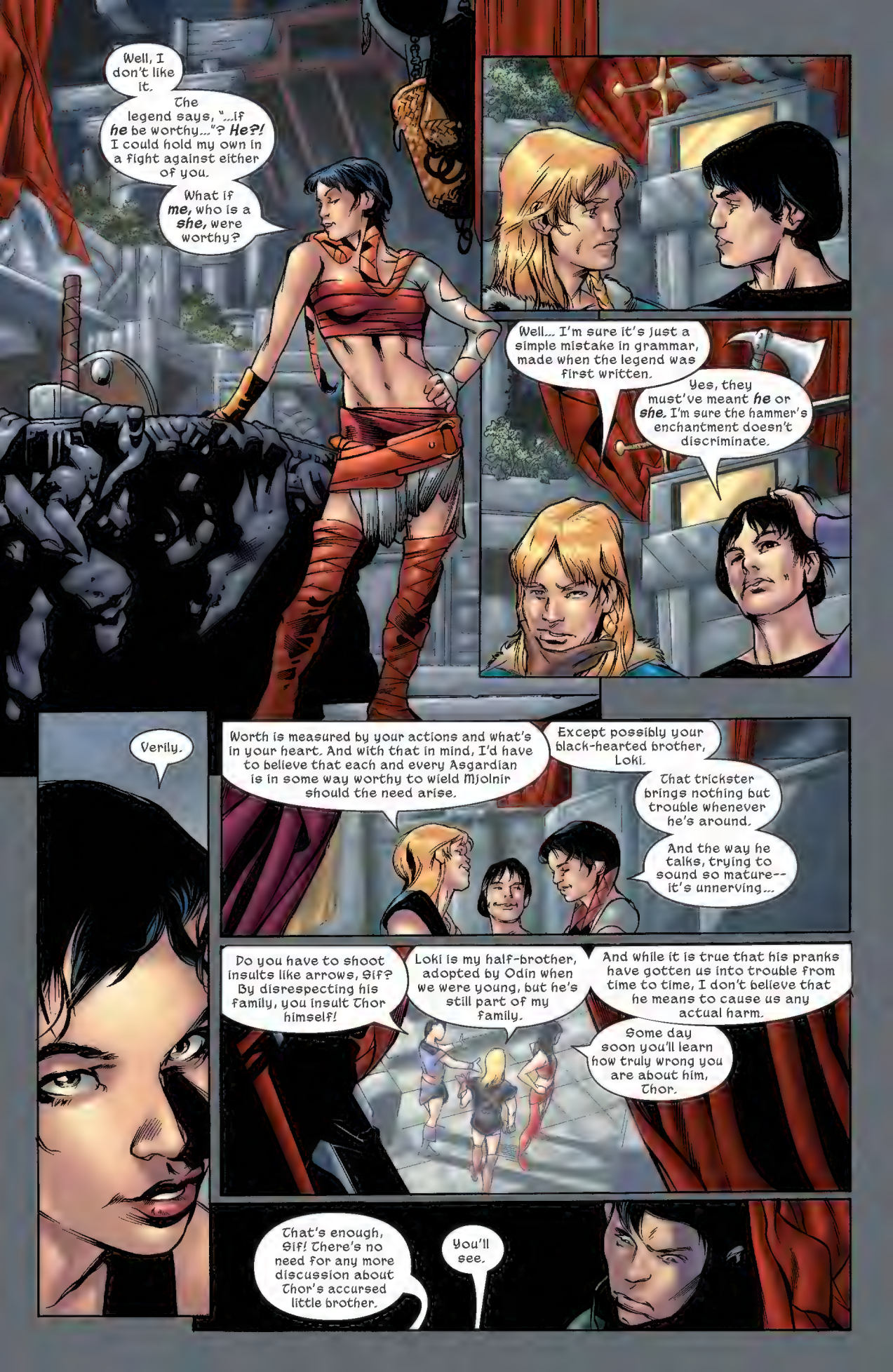


It's no use.
HEE HEE HEE
HAHAHA

I'll never be worthy enough to lift Mjolnir, the mighty Uru hammer of Odin. The enchantment won't allow it.

HA HA HA
I'm happy to see you're both amused by my failure.
You have it wrong, Thor. Sif and I weren't laughing because you couldn't lift the hammer. We were laughing because you never know when to quit.
Balder's right. You looked ridiculous, Thor. You were straining so hard I thought you might burst a vein!
Really?
Well then, I guess I can understand your laughter... somewhat.
You're the son of Odin. It's your destiny to wield the hammer and rule all of Asgard, someday.
Listen to Sif. Everyone in Asgard knows that *you* are our future king.

While I appreciate your support, Sif, I know that nothing is set in stone.
Though I'm the son of a ruler, that doesn't automatically make me fit to rule.
No matter how hard I try to prove myself.
And there is no need for modesty here, Balder. It's you who are beloved across Asgard, by all creatures large and small.
You're a natural warrior with skills that surpass even my own.
Mjolnir belongs in *your hands.*
As Odin is so quick to remind us, legend states, "Whosoever holds this hammer, if he be worthy..."
If anyone's worthy of wielding the mystic weapon at this time, it's you, Balder.
Thor, I don't--
Don't worry, I said, "...at this time..."
Who knows what will happen in the future?
I'll be worthy someday, I know I will. And then I'll come to claim the hammer as my own!


Well, I don't like it.
The legend says, "...if *he* be worthy..."? *He?!* I could hold my own in a fight against either of you.
What if *me,* who is a *she,* were worthy?
Well... I'm sure it's just a simple mistake in grammar, made when the legend was first written.
Yes, they must've meant *he* or *she.* I'm sure the hammer's enchantment doesn't discriminate.
Verily.
Worth is measured by your actions and what's in your heart. And with that in mind, I'd have to believe that each and every Asgardian is in some way worthy to wield Mjolnir should the need arise.
Except possibly your black-hearted brother, Loki.
That trickster brings nothing but trouble whenever he's around.
And the way he talks, trying to sound so mature--it's unnerving...
Do you have to shoot insults like arrows, Sif? By disrespecting his family, you insult Thor himself!
Loki is my half-brother, adopted by Odin when we were young, but he's still part of my family.
And while it is true that his pranks have gotten us into trouble from time to time, I don't believe that he means to cause us any actual harm.
Some day soon you'll learn how truly wrong you are about him, Thor.
That's enough, Sif! There's no need for any more discussion about Thor's accursed little brother.
You'll see.

Oh, that Sif is a feisty little wench!
How dare she speak my name, let alone the truth about my intentions?!
My hatred for all of them knows no bounds. There is nothing more I would rather see than those three destroyed!
Now there must be...
Ah-ha!
You three should do perfectly.
Those words of warning are about to come true, Sif. Let me show you all just how wrong you are about me!

Now come, let's--
HHSSSSSSS
HHSSSSSSS
HHSSSSSSS
HHSSSSSSS
Weapons! Quickly!

One for each of us.
How convenient.
HHSSSSSSS
HHSSSSSSS

SHUK
SPLOK
SLUCE
The eyes! Aim for their eyes!

PRUSSHH
Sif, throw me a sword!
WHOOSH
VWSSH

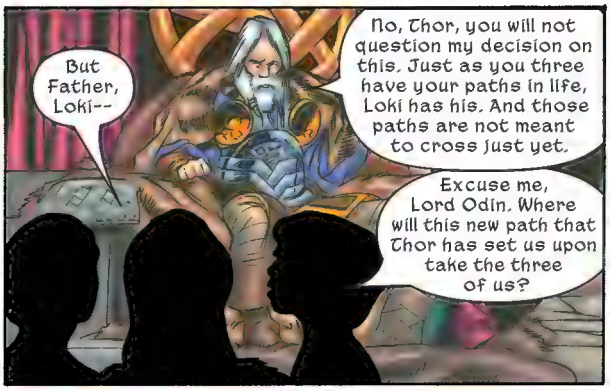
HHIYAAH!
THOK
BWUMP
Thanks for the assist, Milady.
The battle's not over yet.
Why won't you fall?!

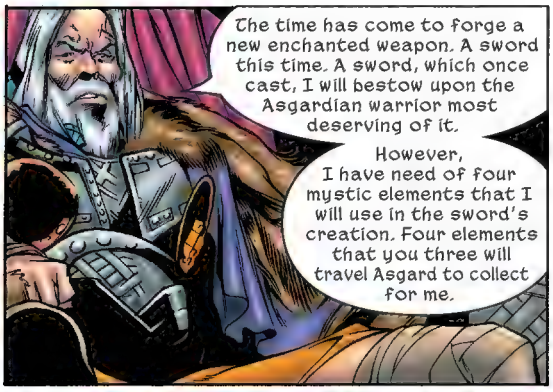
WHISSSH
SPOK
SKKOREEE
SLIICCE
PLOK

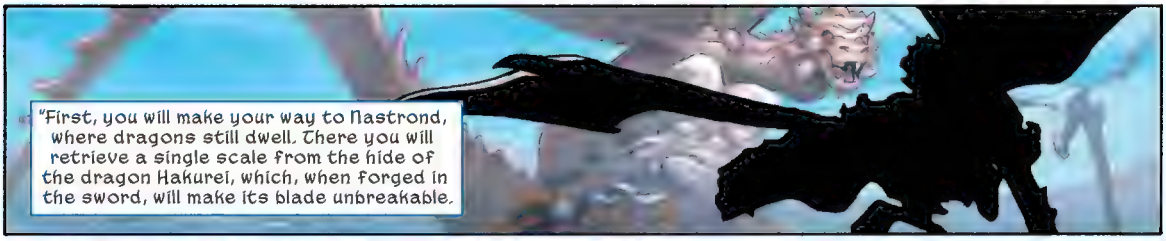
THWOK
Well, that was easy enou--
SLAM
The sounds of battle echoed through the halls to my throne room! Is Asgard under attack?
HEH HEH HEH HEH
How quickly they grow...

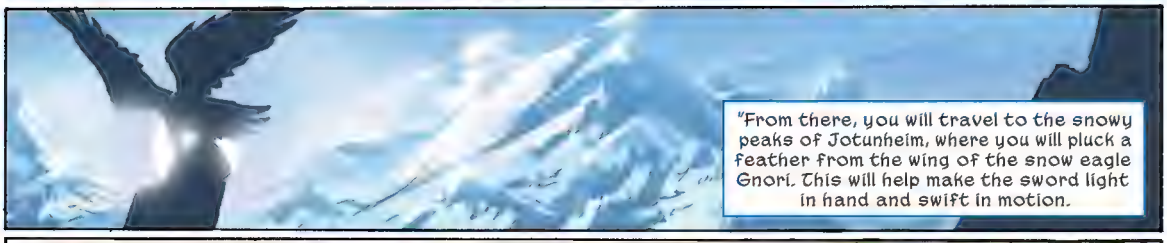
Tell me, my three young warriors... tell me what has transpired here.
It was my fault, Father. I wished to test Mjolnir again, so we snuck into your trophy room. We did not expect to be under attack, or else we never would have touched your sacred weapons...
Calm thyself, Thor. It is not punishment I am looking to dole out here today.
You three should be praised for your actions.
I count three dead spiders here. One slain by each of you?
Yes, my lord, we each killed one... but not without the assistance of the others.
So you fought together and vanquished your foes?
Be this the truth, young Sif?
Yes, Lord Odin. Victory was ours, but only by working together.
Well then, I suppose you are finally ready.
Ready for what, Father?
There will be time for explanations later, Thor.
Go now and bathe yourselves. Freshen up and we will reconvene in my throne room at sunset.
Oh, and do try and find your brother, won't you? I would like Loki to attend as well.

At Sunset...
Well, young warriors, your actions today prove to me that it is now time.
Time for you to prove that the paths you have chosen for yourselves in life are indeed the correct ones.
Time to test your mettle for the glory of Asgard.
Time to prove to me, your lord and liege, that you are willing to do my bidding.
Time to prove you are indeed worthy.
It is time for your first quest!
Are you ready to accept such a challenge?
Yes, Father, we're ready!
You speak for your friends as well, my son, not even knowing what the trials are that I will set before you?
Yes, Father. Where I go, they go, no matter what the tasks ahead of us may be.
The four of us will act on your behalf without question or doubt.
You honor me with your words, my son. Thank you.
However, only three of you will be going on this journey.
Loki will not be joining you.
But Father...
There is a trophy room that needs cleaning, Loki. A trophy room that is covered in the blood of spiders. Spiders that "mysteriously" appeared as if from thin air.
I will say no more as you know of what I speak.
Leave my sight!

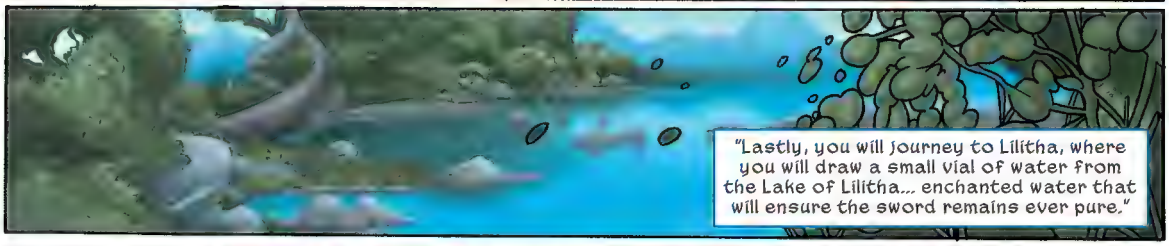

But Father, Loki--
No, Thor, you will not question my decision on this. Just as you three have your paths in life, Loki has his. And those paths are not meant to cross just yet.
Excuse me, Lord Odin. Where will this new path that Thor has set us upon take the three of us?


The time has come to forge a new enchanted weapon. A sword this time. A sword, which once cast, I will bestow upon the Asgardian warrior most deserving of it.
However, I have need of four mystic elements that I will use in the sword's creation. Four elements that you three will travel Asgard to collect for me.

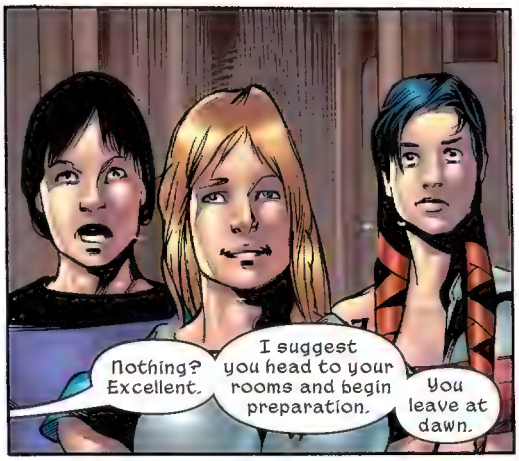

"First, you will make your way to Nastrond, where dragons still dwell. There you will retrieve a single scale from the hide of the dragon Hakurei, which, when forged in the sword, will make its blade unbreakable.


"From there, you will travel to the snowy peaks of Jotunheim, where you will pluck a feather from the wing of the snow eagle Gnori. This will help make the sword light in hand and swift in motion.

"Then, you will continue on to Jennia, where you must unearth a jewel from deep in the mines there... a jewel, which, when placed in the hilt, will maintain the sword's balance.


"Lastly, you will journey to Lilitha, where you will draw a small vial of water from the Lake of Lilitha... enchanted water that will ensure the sword remains ever pure."

These are the tasks I set before you on this quest.
Is there anything further you would ask of me?


Nothing? Excellent.
I suggest you head to your rooms and begin preparation.
You leave at dawn.

"And so, the next morning, the son of Odin and his two friends begin their journey into the wilds of Asgard. While they leave the safety of the castle behind them, Odin will no doubt keep a close eye on their adventures.
"But there are some things that, occasionally, manage to escape the gaze of even the most omniscient ruler...
"Things with a purpose different from those of a loving father...
"Evil things...
"Reaching for those we often hold dearest in our hearts."

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Welcome to a Tale of Asgard...

Thor, the prince of Asgard, is a brash and impetuous youth. Never one to consider who he is or what he has, Thor's mind is always on who he will one day be and what the future holds for him. He feels he lives in the shadow of his father, Odin, ruler of all Asgard, and hopes he can escape that fate through noble deeds and valiant acts.

In order to prove himself worthy of the destiny he covets, Thor sneaks into the imperial armory with his friends, Balder and Sif. Legend holds that whoever can lift the mighty Uru hammer, Mjolnir, will possess great power. But, try as he might, Thor cannot budge the hammer. Before he and his friends can sneak away from their failure, Thor's jealous half-brother, Loki, transforms three spiders into gargantuan arachnid beasts and unleashes them on the trio.

Working as a team, Thor and his friends use the weapons around them to defeat their eight-legged foes. Fearing punishment for their actions, the teens are surprised to win praise from Odin himself for their heroics in battle. Having now proven themselves accomplished warriors, Odin asks the valiant youths to undertake a quest on his behalf: they must travel Asgard in search of four mystic elements that he will use to forge an enchanted sword. Without consulting Balder or Sif, Thor brashly accepts the quest on their behalf, which does not sit well with the young warriors.

It is with mixed emotions that Thor, Balder and Sif set out on Odin's Quest in search of the first element their liege requires… a scale from the hide of the dragon, Hakurei!

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The Hidden Hills of Asgard...

Enough with the silent treatment!
We're friends. We speak our minds. Let's clear the air here.
The daggers your eyes have silently been shooting into my back are starting to take their toll.
You're right, Thor. We are friends.
But friends usually like to be asked their opinions before being dragged into situations they may not particularly care for.

What are you saying, Balder? You didn't want to come on this quest? You would have preferred to hide at home rather than join the adventure Odin has set us on?
I believe what Balder is getting at is that we would have appreciated having some say in the matter. Our lives are our own. The choice should have been ours.
You know Sif and I would follow you through the Gates of Hel, Thor. But we would prefer to do it of our own free will.
You jumped at the chance to go on this quest just to please your father. You never once asked us if we wanted to come along with you. You just assumed we would.
You, my two closest friends, would *refuse* the chance to be part of this grand journey? Even when asked by Odin?
That's just the point, Thor! We were never asked! We weren't even given the chance to refuse!
This isn't about courage or pride. It's about respect-- the respect one friend has for another to *ask* for her help rather than simply assume it.
Of all the sons of Asgard, I would never have expected this of you, Balder. A true warrior would never refuse a challenge set forth by Lord Odin.
And what of this daughter of Asgard?! Does the fact that I'm female make me any less a warrior than either of you?! You think I'm just some girl, unfit for such a masculine escapade?!
You think I'm here to simply tag along as you two fight the battles and claim Odin's prizes?!

I SAY THEE NAY!
And I'll take the lead from here on out.
You men and your directions... you've probably gotten us lost anyway.
Well, let's get going then. We shouldn't let her get too far ahead.
Our conversation's not over yet, Balder. There are still things we need to discu--

LOOKING FOR ME?
HA HAHAHA HAHA
THEY DIDN'T TELL YOU I COULD SPEAK, DID THEY?
WELL, I GUESS THESE ARE THE LAST WORDS YOU WILL EVER HEAR.

FWHAASHH
This is not at all what I expected.
He was waiting for us. He knew we were coming.
It doesn't really matter *why* he's here. The fact of the matter is that the dragon Hakurei *is* here.
Odin asked us to collect a scale from his impenetrable hide... and that's what we're going to do.
His presence here only makes our task that much easier.
Thor, wait!

I am Thor, Son of Odin!
On behalf of my father, ruler of all Asgard, I command you to cease your attack and comply with my requests!
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, YOU NAIVE, YOUNG WHELP.
IT IS YOU WHO HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE DEALING WITH!
WWHOOSSHH
KRASHH!
Sif!
Balder!
We're all right. Turn your attention back to the dragon!
Thor! Look out!

WHAMM!
UNNGHH!
FFRRSSH!
Thor!
Face me, Hakurel!

VWOOSH
THWOM
KRAK

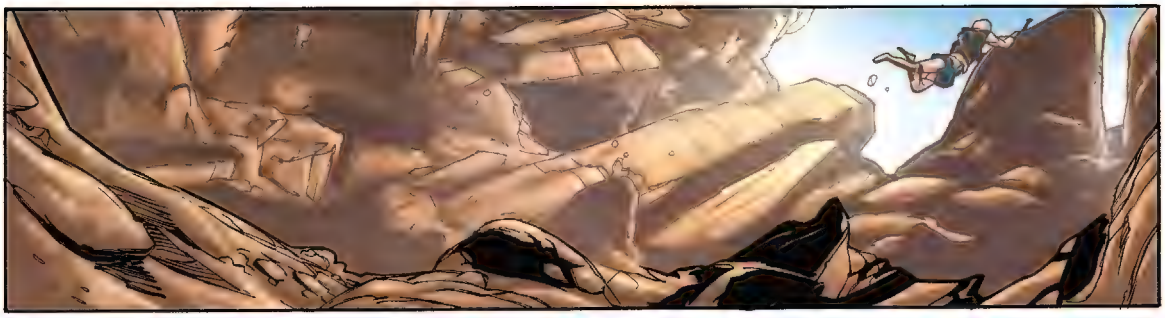
Sif!
Stop treating me like some frail flower, Balder! You can trust me to hold my own--
Look out behind you!
YOU'RE MINE NOW, GODLING!
Not just yet, firebreather!

RRAARRGGHH!
And don't forget about me, beast!
Thor!
FWADESH

Thor, you're too young to feel Hela's touch just yet. Say something, my friend.
What are you doing here with me when there's still a battle to be fought and won out there?!
Ah, I see the blow has done nothing to rattle your mental faculties.
Please, Balder, it's your cunning, not your sarcasm, that we require now. Sif needs our help.
We're being sloppy in our attacks, not fighting as the team that beat the spiders in Odin's castle. What do you think we should do?
If Sif can hold her own for a bit longer, I have an idea.
But one of us is going to have to mount the dragon's head.
And how do you propose we do that?
Fly?
Climb.

SLICE
Thor, go now!
RRRAARRGGH!
Sif, quickly! Grab your bow!
Aim for its head!
MY HIDE IS IMPENETRABLE! THERE IS NOTHING THE MAIDEN CAN DO TO HURT ME!
SNAP
TWANG TWANG TWANG
SHSHH
CHOK CHOK CHOK

Is that so? What about those sweet nothings in your ear then?
I bet they hurt.
Ha! Impenetrable, you say, Hakurei? While Lady Sif lacerates your lobes, I bet I can also bring a twinkle to your toes.
THWOK
RAARGH!
Looks like Sif and Balder are having a bit too much fun down there.
I'd say it's time for me to enter the fray again.
It's time for me to bring this battle to an end.



Thor's almost reached his perch.
Come on, Sif, we have to lure Hakurei that way.

Spirits of the Vanna, grant me your wings.

FOR ASGARD!!!

CHUK
THLOKK
THRUMP!

You did it, Thor! That's the way to strike a blow!
You brought down the dragon!
No. I didn't win this fight alone. Victory is ours!
Your strategy was sound, Balder. I should have consulted with you before rushing into battle.
But next time you can run, while I distract the dragon.
I hope you didn't think I was running scared, Sif. Never doubt my integrity and skills as a warrior and I'll never insult yours again.
You've proven yourself our equal more times than I can count. If you hadn't held your own against Hakurei today, we might not be standing here victorious.
Can you both forgive me for my earlier attitude and actions? I was a fool and only suceeded in driving us apart. Let this victory bring harmony back to the group again.
Let's unite our swords as a symbol of our unbreakable bond.
For Asgard!

We should hurry up and remove a scale from the dragon's hide.
While Thor's blow did hit Hakurei's weak spot, it didn't kill him. He's still breathing.
He'd better keep his eyes shut while this trio of Asgard's finest is around.
How do you think Hakurei knew to be here in the first place? It did seem as if he was expecting us.
These are the Hidden Hills, Balder, the lands where dragons dwell. It's only natural he was here.
So they say... but have you seen a single other dragon around?
Are you suggesting that someone told Hakurei we were coming? *Impossible!* No one but Odin knows of this quest...
Almost no one...

Well done, young warriors. The royal blood of Asgard courses through your veins. Odin was right to trust that you were ready to face the wilds of Asgard on your own. But, as your lord and father shall soon learn...
Those we hold dearest in our hearts are often the ones that will lead us to ruin.
HA HAHAHA HAHA

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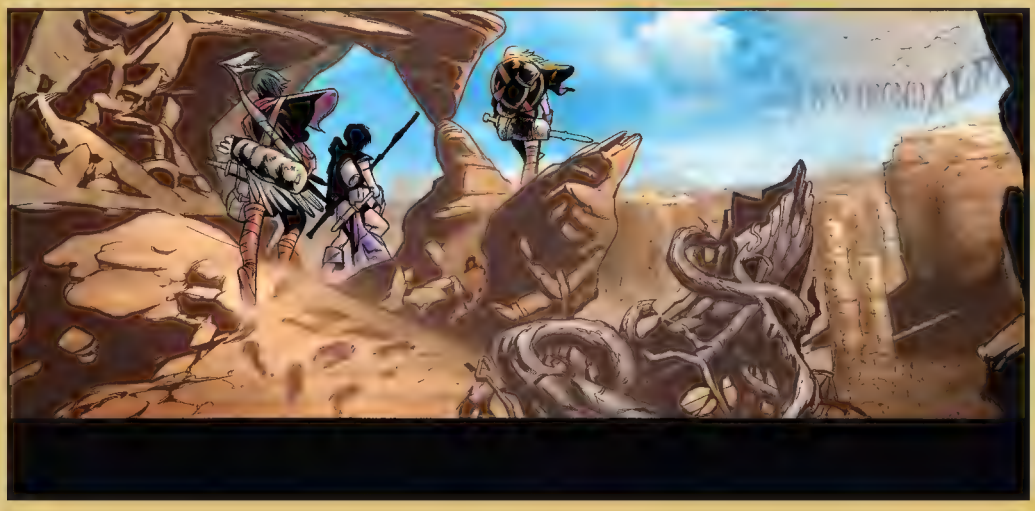
After sneaking into the imperial armory and attempting to lift the mighty uru hammer, Mjolnir, Thor and his warrior friends, Balder and Sif, are attacked by three monstrous spiders, set loose on the trio by Thor's jealous half-brother Loki. Working as a team, the trio defeats their arachnid foes. Fearing punishment for their actions, the teens are surprised to win praise from Odin himself for their heroics in battle. Having now proven themselves accomplished warriors, Odin asks the valiant youths to undertake a quest on his behalf: they must travel Asgard in search of four mystic elements that he will use to forge an enchanted sword. Without consulting Balder or Sif, Thor accepts the quest on their behalf, which does not sit well with the young warriors.

Their first task leads them to Nastrond, in search of the dragon Hakurei, from whose hide the young heroes are meant to pluck a scale. Much to their surprise, the white dragon lies in wait, having been tipped off to their plan. After a vicious battle, the teen trio ultimately defeats Hakurei and escapes with one of the requested scales, but not without further damaging the group's already fragile morale.

Now, the disgruntled youths travel north to the snowy mountains of Jotunheim, where they must pluck a feather from the wing of the snow eagle, Gnori.



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Jotunheim...
All this for a feather?

What kind of mad quest has Odin sent us on?
From fire to ice! We've traveled from one extreme to the other.
A mad quest Odin sent us on or a mad quest *you accepted?*
Just whose fault is it that we're up here freezing to death?
I've heard about enough out of you, Balder. I've apologized for agreeing to this quest without asking you first. I've admitted I was wrong.
Can *you* not accept that? What more do you want from me?!
A fire and a warm meal would be nice...
Enough!
OUGHH!
FUMF
Leave him alone, Thor!

If anyone deserves to have some sense knocked into him here, *It's you.*
It's still your fault that we're even here in the first place. It was *you* who almost got us killed by the dragon, Hakurei!
Maybe you should go ahead alone, Thor.
The snow may continue to fall in these frozen lands, but you're the one who needs to cool off!

Fine, Sif! Side with Balder, then. I've had enough of both your complaining anyway.
You've done nothing but whine about "respect" and "acceptance" this entire journey.
When you two finally **accept** that this quest was an adventure we were destined to travel together, then you'll get ***my respect*** back.
HA HA HA HA HA

And here I was planning on driving this merry little band of friends apart...
...when it seems they are doing a fine job of that on their own.
Let's see if I can't add a few more cracks to this already frosty group dynamic.
Thor, wait!
That was fast. What do you have to say for yourselves?
I'm not going to apologize for anything or accuse anymore. I only want to state the facts.
Right now, in this frozen climate, we'd be fools to part company and go our separate ways. We have to stay together... for our survival!
Always the voice of reason, eh, Balder? But as usual, you're right. The three of us need to--
KRAK
What was that?
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK

What kind of creatures are these?
Be careful, Thor. They've got what look like weapons.
CHUK
AAGGHH!
Uggh! Who cares what they are?!
They're hostile and their frozen blades cut like tiny daggers. I won't wait for one to strike again.
What are these things?!
These are not the best conditions for a fight. Our icy opponents may have the advantage here.

It matters not!
WHISH
SWOOSH
WOOSH
They move like the wind.
SHISH
The snow doesn't slow them down at all.
They can't avoid my sword forever.
KRRSHH

See?! They shatter like glass when struck by steel.
SHLUP
It's gone. What madness--
KRAK
Regeneration? There's magic at work here!
Tired to the core. Knee deep in snow. Frozen to the bone.
We need a little magic of our own right now.

FWISH
CHIK
SLICE
THUK
SHISH
SHLICK
THISH
KLINK

I'm lucky I didn't lose my eye to the tip of that sword!
The tip of a sword...
Thor! Balder!
I've figured it out! They're attacking in triangular formations.
They rotate around us at right angles.
Don't lash out blindly! Watch their movement and anticipate their positions.
SKRRSSH

CHOK
SLICE
SHUP
KRAK
Your senses are as sharp as ever, Sif.
Their tactics are now clear. But how do we defeat enemies who simply pop back into battle after being struck down?

Just as Sif has figured out their attack, I think I may have figured out their weakness.
THWIP
These ice pixies are some form of elemental. They must remain in constant contact with the substance they are drawing their power from.
In this case, they're channeling the ice that lies beneath the snow we're standing on. They can keep reforming while touching it. Break their connection to that ice and they become powerless.
KRSSH
PHOMF

Let's get them off the ground then!
WHEESH
THOR! INCOMING!
SKRSSH
HACK
Nice shot!

Your turn.
THOK
KRRSSH
They're vanishing!
FSSSH
They're gone! Swallowed up just as victory was in our grasp.
We still won. However, we should be more concerned with motive than outcome here.
Where did they come from? Did someone send them after us? And if so, why?
Elementals don't just appear. They have to be summoned.

Just like with the dragon, it's as if someone knew we were coming.
Someone who wants to prevent us from accomplishing our tasks.
Someone who wants us dead, more likely!
I don't care what you think, Thor, but this is no coincidence. Someone knows about our quest!
And again I'll remind you that no one but Odin knows of this journey we're on.
Loki was there. He was asked to leave but could have overheard...
You're always so quick to blame my brother, Sif! Loki would never--
SKREEEEE

SCREEEEEE

SCREEEEEE
SCREEEEEE

You can sheathe your swords, hatchlings. There is no further need for your weapons here today.
Welcome to Jotunheim, Son of Odin.
I am Gnori, king of the snow eagles and friend to your father.
Friend to my father, you say? Then why send your minions to attack his kin?
It was not enough to call a storm of snow and ice down upon us? You had to send your icy elves to further impede our journey and inflict harm?
I will be sure Odin hears of the hospitality you have extended us, "friend"!
So, the rumors I have heard are true. The prince of Asgard does possess a fiery temper and a silver tongue.
One should not be so quick to accuse, young Thor, before knowing the whole story.
The storm you were caught in was indeed my doing. All who come to Jotunheim and seek my lair must pass through blizzards to demonstrate the depth of their desire for an audience with me.
But that is the only test. The ice elementals you fought were not my creation.
From my perch high above, I saw your plight and came to help. But victory was yours before I could offer my assistance. You three fought well.
Then who summoned them?
I do not have the answer you seek, kind Balder. But I advise caution.
Powerful magic is needed to summon such elementals. If someone seeks to put that magic to evil use, surely no good can come of it.
All of Asgard must beware such formidable forces.
Even one such as you, Balder.
Though you are beloved by all creatures in Asgard, it is love that may one day be your downfall.

Just what do you speak of, King Gnori? Balder is the most noble and gentle of souls in all these lands.
How can love spell doom for one such as he, against whom none can bear ill will?
Your senses are keen, Lady Sif, much like those of your brother, Heimdall. But there is still much that passes you by.
There is no destiny that is set in stone. No future that cannot be changed. You must learn to see all the possibilities presented for what they truly are and choose your path wisely.
King Gnori, I beg your forgiveness. My earlier accusations were spoken in haste and anger. I meant no disrespect. My harsh words only serve to bring shame to my name and that of my family. Please find it in your heart to forgive me.
You may rise, Odinson.
There is no need for such apologies, Thor. While you were quick to place blame, your words came from your heart and were spoken out of concern for the lives of your friends. I would expect no less.
You are indeed your father's son.
And if I am not mistaken, your father has requested you bring him one of these?
Please take one. You have all earned it.
Fare thee well, young gods. I expect great things from you!

Well, we have two of the mystic elements Odin asked for. Our quest is half over.
Two tasks left-- plenty of opportunity for us to encounter more evil creatures and dangerous lands.
Do you really believe Loki is behind this mischief, Sif? Even he doesn't possess the magic abilities necessary to summon elementals...
Then that begs the question, who in Asgard does? Maybe we should think about that?
And what about Gnori's warnings? Maybe we should go back to Asgard and seek Odin's counsel?
No! We're not going to abandon the quest under any circumstances!
We will not return to Asgard without the four elements.
I won't fail!
We'll just have to be more careful. More alert.
We'll have to watch each other's backs a bit more carefully.
KRUNCH! KRUNCH! KRUNCH!

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Welcome to a Tale of Asgard...

Thor, the prince of Asgard, is a brash and impetuous youth. Never one to consider who he is or what he has, Thor's mind is always on who he will one day be and what the future holds for him. He feels he lives in the shadow of his father, Odin, ruler of all Asgard, and he hopes he can escape from Odin's shadow through noble deeds and valiant acts.

In order to please his father and hopefully prove his worth, Thor has agreed to undertake a quest on Odin's behalf: he and his two friends, Balder and Sif, must travel Asgard in search of four mystic elements which Odin hopes to forge into an enchanted sword. However, this impulsive decision does not sit well with Balder or Sif, as Thor has accepted the mission without consulting them first.

Their first task is to obtain a scale from the hide of the dragon Hakurei! Thor, along with the reluctant Balder and Sif, travels to Nastrond in hopes of quietly sneaking into Hakurei's lair to obtain a shed piece of the dragon's hide without incident. However, much to their surprise, they find the huge white dragon laying in wait for them. After a vicious battle, the teen trio was able to ultimately defeat Hakurei and escape unharmed with one of his scales, but not without further damaging the group's already fragile morale.

The disgruntled youths then traveled north to the snowy mountains of Niflheim for their second task, where they were to pluck a feather from the wing of the snow eagle Gnori. On the path up to Gnori's mountain aerie, the three were attacked by ice pixies. Thor, Balder and Sif stood their ground on the frozen trail and emerged victorious thanks to Sif's keen eye and strategic thinking. Gnori descended from his perch to check on the young Asgardians and congratulate them on their victory. Despite Thor's accusations, they discover that the ice pixies were not of Gnori's making. They obtain the snow eagle's feather and complete their task, but are now burdened with suspicions that evil forces may be trying to stand in the way of completing their quest!

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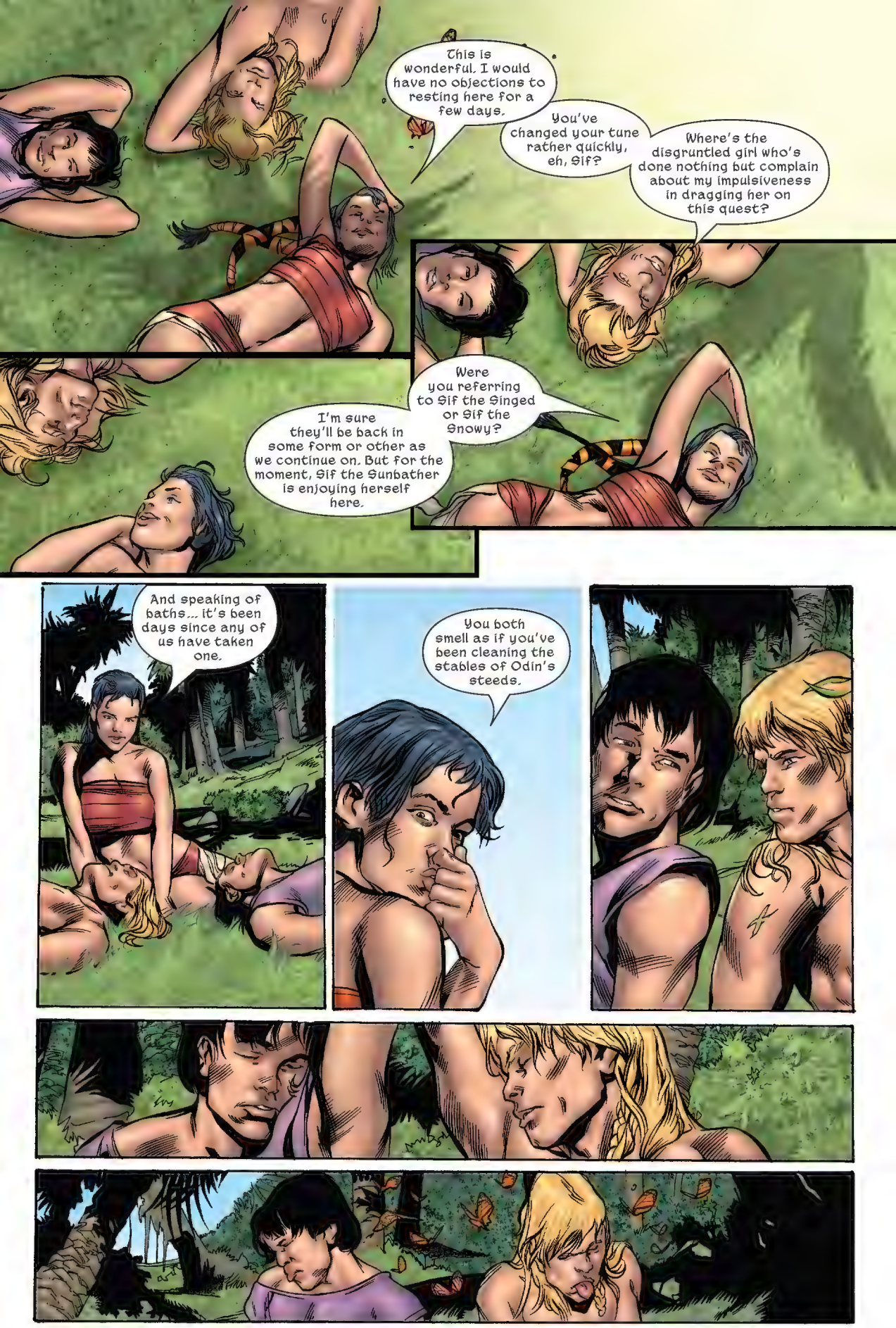
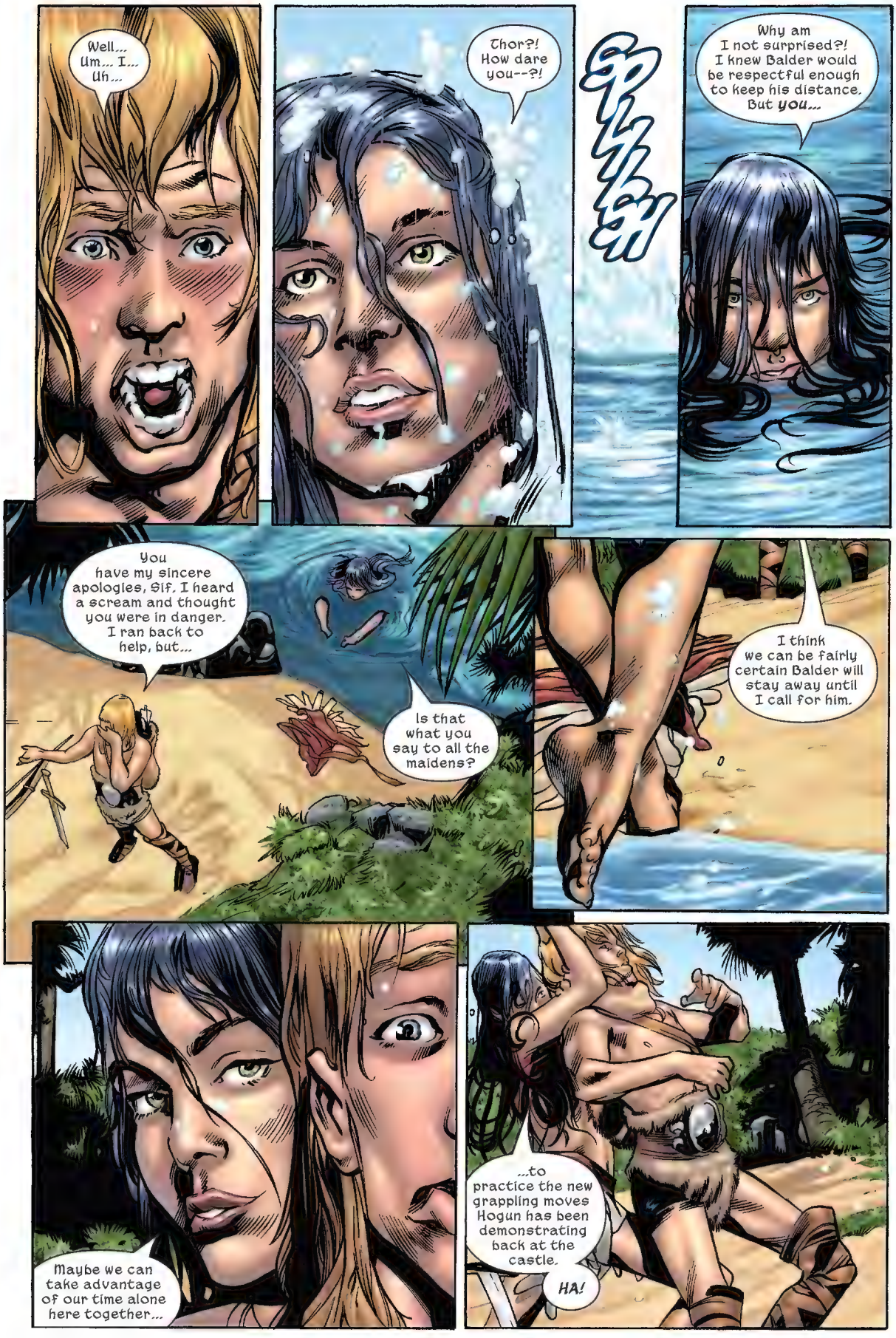

This is wonderful. I would have no objections to resting here for a few days.
You've changed your tune rather quickly, eh, Sif?
Where's the disgruntled girl who's done nothing but complain about my impulsiveness in dragging her on this quest?
Were you referring to Sif the Singed or Sif the Snowy?
I'm sure they'll be back in some form or other as we continue on. But for the moment, Sif the Sunbather is enjoying herself here.
And speaking of baths... it's been days since any of us have taken one.
You both smell as if you've been cleaning the stables of Odin's steeds.

mmmmmmmm
Well, there's no reason not to take advantage of this beautiful pool.
So I'll jump in and bathe first.
I will bathe alone while you two hunt for firewood and for tonight's dinner!
The forest is that way. Get going!
And no peeking!

Well, this is an unexpected but pleasant development.
A situation such as this certainly gets the imagination running wild.
There's nothing I'd like more than to teach her a lesson, but the possibilities for mischief here are just too good to pass up.
But rather than tip my hand too soon, I'll let my witless "brother" play the buffoon.

HELP!
SIF?!
Fear not, Sif, I'm--


Well... Um... I... Uh...
Thor?! How dare you--?!
SPLASH!
Why am I not surprised?! I knew Balder would be respectful enough to keep his distance. But you...
You have my sincere apologies, Sif. I heard a scream and thought you were in danger. I ran back to help, but...
Is that what you say to all the maidens?
I think we can be fairly certain Balder will stay away until I call for him.
Maybe we can take advantage of our time alone here together...
...to practice the new grappling moves Hogun has been demonstrating back at the castle.
HA!

HIYAH!
WUMP
SWIPE
THUMP
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

Thor! Sif! I heard the sounds of a struggle. Are you--??
"Fairly certain Balder will stay away until you call for him", eh?
HAHAHA
HAHAHA
What happened? Why are you two lying there like that?
Have I missed something here?
Oh, yes, Balder. You missed quite the show--
The evil eye?
Just what did you do, Thor?
Unbelievable! Is there nothing I can do to weaken the bonds of friendship these three share?

Well, well, well... what have we here?
Looks like I'm not the only one following young Thor's grand adventure...
Odin's other son has come out to play as well.
HAHAHAHAHA
It appears I now have an unwitting ally in this game!

The next afternoon...
Once we reach the end of the forest, we should find ourselves at the Dunes of Jennia.
And we have to cross the dunes to reach the mines?
There's no other way.
Well, I guess this is where I now become Sif the Sandy.
Don't worry. Maybe we can find another pool later where you can wash the sand off.
SWAK
That's enough of that, Thor.
Enough of what? Care to share, my friends?
Really? Why not tell me and let me be the judge of that?
Oh, it's nothing, Balder.
Don't mind him, Balder. Thor needs to learn to keep his mouth shut.
Let's just keep going...
Fine! Keep your secrets to yourselves.
Look! See there in the distance? That must be the entrance to the Mines of Jennia. It's not so far after all.
Good. Let's take a quick break and then be on our way.
This might be the first time neither of you has complained about a task on this quest.
sigh
The day is still young, Thor...

Later...
The Mines of Jennia! The very place where the famed jewels come from!
Every girl in Asgard dreams of the day when she'll receive a ring or necklace made from Jennia jewels.
Even I long for the day when--
What?!
Help!
Thor! Balder! Please help!
Sif!
Sif! Sif!

Hold on, Sif! I'm coming!
Thor, calm down. It's no use. Digging in these sands will amount to nothing.
Tell me what you saw.
She was explaining how she's always wanted one of the jewels and the sand just swallowed her up...
Why are we talking about this? We are ***wasting*** time?!
Please, Thor, just hold on a moment. Cooler heads will always--
No!
Let her go!
I will bring the heavens down if she's been harmed!
THWUMP
THWUMP
THWUMP
No!

Thor and Sif, both swallowed by these sands. But why? And to what end?
Could they survive? If so, where are they? And what are they doing...
...alone *together?*

HAHAHAHA
Do my eyes deceive me? Thor, Sif and Balder all eaten alive by the sands here?!
Could this truly be the last I will ever see of my hated brother?
His demise did not come by my hand but it is no less an occasion to rejoice--
Oh, no!
Not me! I've done nothing--

Unnhhhh...
Where am I?
By Odin's beard--?!
Away, you filthy pests!
Sif! Balder!
You vile little creatures! What have you done to them?!

Aaahhh...
What in--?!

YEEAARRGH!!
Away!
Leave me be!
Off with you!
Thor!
Help!
Calm yourselves!
That's the key to getting them off you!
I don't think these creatures mean you harm. They are the Jennia. I think they're simply responding to your emotions by trying to feed off them.
Your anger, Thor, and your fear, Sif, are what they are drawn to. Try to relax. Rid yourselves of emotion and they should leave you alone.
Trust me.

Thor, do as Balder says. Calm yourself. Hide your anger.
Please...
For me.

Oh, Thor...
Be careful.
Relief, elation and love are powerful emotions as well, which the Jennia can also feed on.
Come on. Let's leave this place behind.
Wait!
We can't leave without the very thing we came for.

Your powers of observation are the best in all Asgard, Balder.
You were able to figure out the truth about the Jennia from simply watching us vanish?
It wasn't so much your disappearing as it was remembering what you said and did just before you were swallowed.
Sif expressed desire for a jewel of her own. And your anger ran unchecked after she was swallowed, Thor.
Desire and anger are two of the strongest emotions we know.
Thinking back, I remember hearing rumors of the jewels' power as a child.
They said "To possess too many..."
"...is to lose much more." I also remembered the stories. And it all added up.
It was emotion that they spoke of losing, as the jewels would suck it from you.
And it must be for that reason that Odin needs a Jennia jewel!
He said he needed the jewel to provide balance to the sword he wishes to forge.
But not to simply balance the blade... to also balance the bearer!
And the Jennia who attacked us fed on our emotions in order to protect their jewels?
In a manner of speaking, yes. But the Jennia are the jewels. Or at least, become them...
I think that the jewels are actually the hardened hearts of Jennia who have passed on. Their now emotionless souls are captured in the jewels.
Now it's off to Lilitha for the last of Odin's elements.
Thank you, Balder.
SMOOCH
You used your mind to triumph where our muscle could not.
A trait of a true warrior.
What emotion do you think is the most powerful? Love?
Possibly. But let's not forget love's opposite.
Hatred is an equally strong emotion.
Too true, Thor.
Anyone who enters these sands with hate in their heart is surely doomed to a fate most unkind.

Where--?!
Hello?! Is anyone there?
Where am I? What's going on here?!
Glad to see you are finally awake, Loki, my dear boy.
I was beginning to think you would never wake up and that I'd saved you from the Jennia for naught.
you?!

KARNILA!

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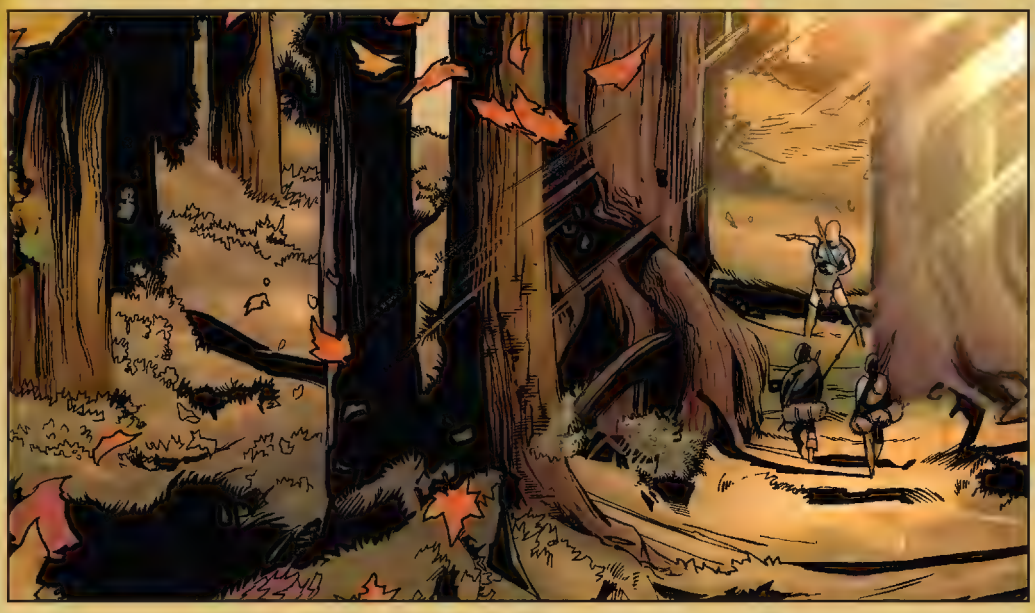
Welcome, Kind Reader, to a Tale of Asgard...

Thor, the prince of Asgard, is a brash and impetuous youth. Never one to consider who he is or what he has, Thor's mind is always on who he will one day be and what the future holds for him. He feels he lives in the shadow of his father, Odin, ruler of all Asgard, and he hopes he can escape that fate through noble deeds and valiant acts.

When Odin asks Thor and his fellow young warriors, Balder and Sif, to undertake a quest on his behalf, Thor quickly agrees, but does not consult his friends. Though Sif and Balder are angered by Thor's inconsiderate behavior, they commit themselves to the task at hand. Together the trio travels Asgard in search of four mystic elements which Odin hopes to forge into an enchanted sword.

They have defeated the dragon Hakurei and removed one of the scales from his armored hide. They have battled ice pixies on the frozen peaks of Jotunheim in order to obtain a feather from the snow eagle Gnori. And they have overcome the vicious Jennia deep beneath the sands of the Asgardian desert to win a magic jewel. Now, only the fourth element remains--enchanted water from the mystic Lake of Lilitha...



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This, my friends, is Lilitha.
And the Lake of Lilitha is the heart of this land. Its enchanted water nourishes all living things that dwell within Lilitha's borders.
I used to come here as a child to swim in the Lake and climb through the trees in this lush forest.
I do not believe "lush" is the word I would use to describe this forest.
Something is indeed wrong here, Thor. There is no life left in these trees.

Trying to use your brain instead of your brawn again, Balder?
Hoping to discover another hidden mystery and win a second kiss from Lady Sif?
Like the kiss that you stole from Sif near the waterfall as I hunted?
Was that the secret you kept from me?
Who is to say, Balder? It may have been more than just a kiss...
Enough! I have heard enough from both of you! You use my name as a pawn in this war of words. You act as if I am not here to speak for myself.
Your petty jealousies are unfounded. We three are friends and nothing more. Put aside this childish rivalry and let us finish our quest.
The Lake is near. The fourth element is within our grasp. We need but draw a vial of water and return to Asgard!
So be it!
The Lake lies but two days' walk from here. The sooner we get there, the sooner we can make our way home.
PWSSH

Loki!
SCHING
TWANG
Help me.
Stand guard. Who knows what transpires here.
I will tend to my brother.
Why are you here, Loki? And why do you appear to have been in battle?
Has Odin sent you? Is there trouble in Asgard?
Karnilla...
Karnilla seeks to kill our father and claim Asgard as her own!
Karnilla?!
The Norn Queen?! What could she possibly hope to gain by crossing Odin?
Explain yourself, Loki!

"I too was swallowed by the sands in Jennia after having followed you there. When I awoke, I found myself a prisoner, chained to the wall of a dank dungeon. And there before me, gloating, stood the Norn Queen."
I was beginning to think you would never wake up and that I'd saved you from the Jennia for naught.
Karnilla!
HA HA HA HA
"She knew of your quest and used her magicks to hinder your travels whenever she could. And when she spied me following you, she captured me, believing I would help her with her evil machinations."
I had hoped to use Odin's true son as a pawn in my plan to bring ruin to his throne.
But if the Fates dictate that it is Odin's adopted son who will assist me, so be it.
"I declined her offer."
PTOO
Never!
Asgard has become my home.
A home I will never turn my back on or betray!
SMAK!
Well, young trickster, it appears there is more to you than meets the eye. You do have a bit of backbone... something I shall be happy to remedy upon my return.
Your refusal to assist me makes little difference. The attack continues as planned, with or without you.
When next we meet, godling, you will bow down before me...
...as your Queen!

Can this be? I know not what to make of the tale you tell.
He lies!
Given his penchant for mischief, we cannot believe a word this silver-tongued devil speaks!
He has concocted this story so that we return to Asgard, and fail in our quest.
How is it he stands here before us when, by his own admission, he was mystically bound in Karnilla's lair?!
When Karnilla kissed me I absorbed a hint of her magic. I used that to escape my shackles.
After fighting my way out I made for Lilitha in order to find you.
More lies! I will have the truth or I will have your blood on my hands!
You made mention that you had been following us. Is this true? For how long?
Since... since you left Asgard.
I have been in the shadows of your journey the entire time.
I knew it!
And that is why the dragon was waiting for us. It was you who told Hakurei we were coming!
Y-yes. Yes, it was me.
And it was I who tricked Thor into returning to the waterfall to catch you bathing. Please forgive me.
Forgive you? I should simply kill you and be done with it!
Stay your hand, Sif!
Loki is my brother. That makes this a family matter.
He will pay for his treachery, but it is I who shall deal with him.
When your actions have placed us in peril, Loki, I have always given you the benefit of the doubt. I never wanted to believe that you truly meant for harm to befall me or my friends.
But here today, your true nature stands revealed.
I have but one question for you, Loki. And I beg you to think before you speak. Your life depends on your answer.
Is Karnilla truly planning an attack on Asgard or are you simply trying to deceive us into returning home in failure?

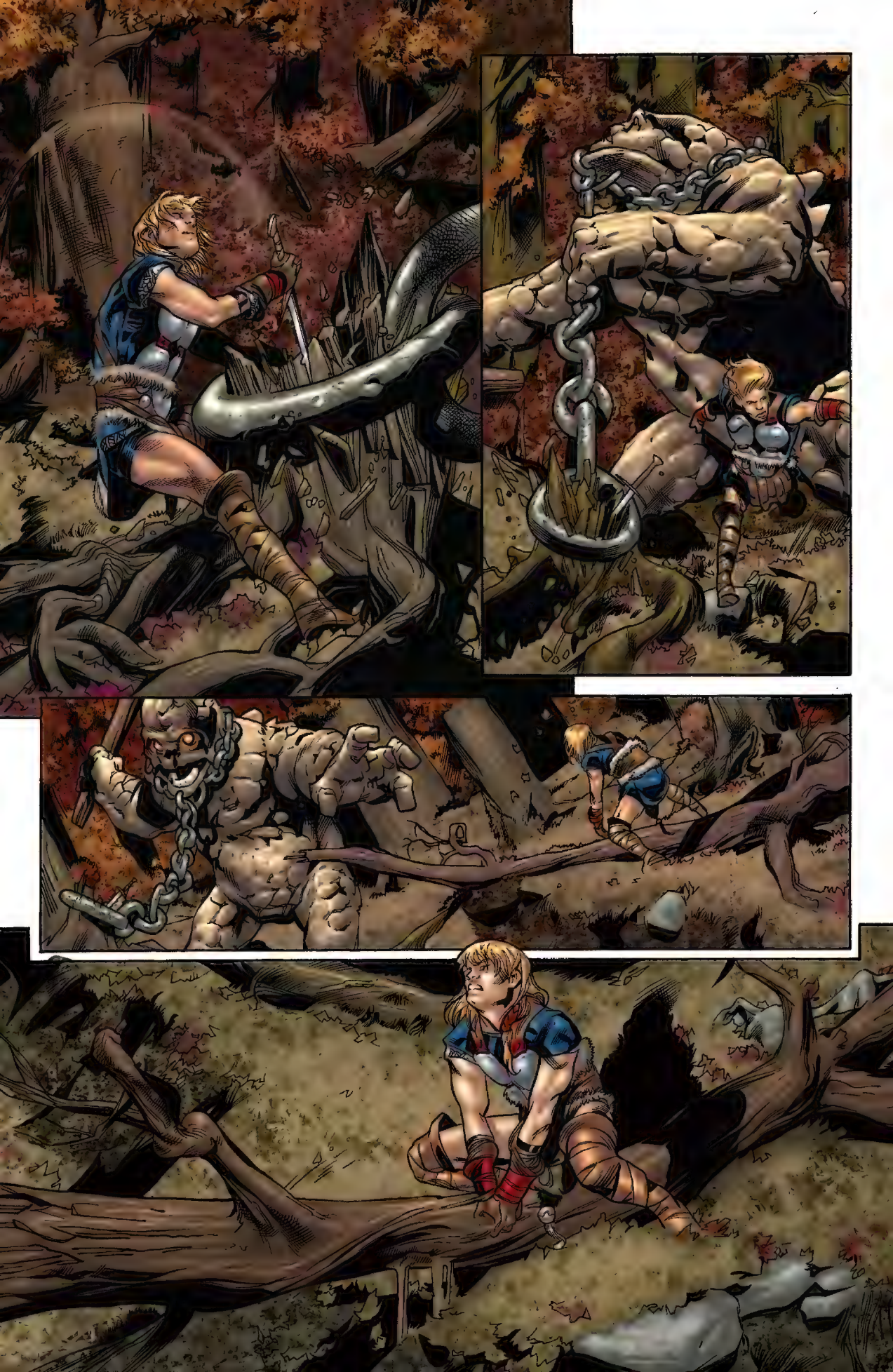
I speak the truth.
Karnilla intends to take Asgard as her own.
Believe me... please.
WUMP
Tell me why, Loki?
Why come to us with this news now when you have shown us nothing but contempt in the past?
Yes, it is true there is no love lost between us. I'll admit that.
However, any hatred I feel for you three is outweighed by my love for my father, Odin.
A father who took me in.
A father who gave me a chance at life.
A father whose own life is now in danger.
A father who needs *our* help.

You go.
What?!
I fail to understand your reasoning here, Thor.
You two take Loki and return to Asgard. You must warn Odin of Karnilla's plan.
I will continue on to the Lake of Lilitha to draw the water Odin needs for the enchanted sword--
We may need it in the coming battle. Once I finish our quest I will return to Asgard.
You would turn your back on our father?
I am doing this *for* our father.
But Thor...
Nay, Balder, do not question my decision. Not now.
It was I who accepted Odin's quest and dragged you both into danger. It was I who placed this burden on our shoulders.
But now, it is *my* burden to bear.
I am the son of Odin.
This was Odin's quest.
I will finish my father's bidding and prove myself in his eyes.
We will help ensure that Karnilla is defeated and that Asgard is victorious.
Odin will retain his throne and will welcome his heroic son upon his return.

Then I assume it is up to me to get us there in time.
Where did you learn to--?!
There is no time for explanations now. I just wish I had studied enough to conjure flying horses.
And now it is your turn, Thor.
This is for luck.
Fare thee well, my friends. Protect Asgard, our home and heart.
May your path be safe and your journey swift, Thor. We shall be reunited shortly.

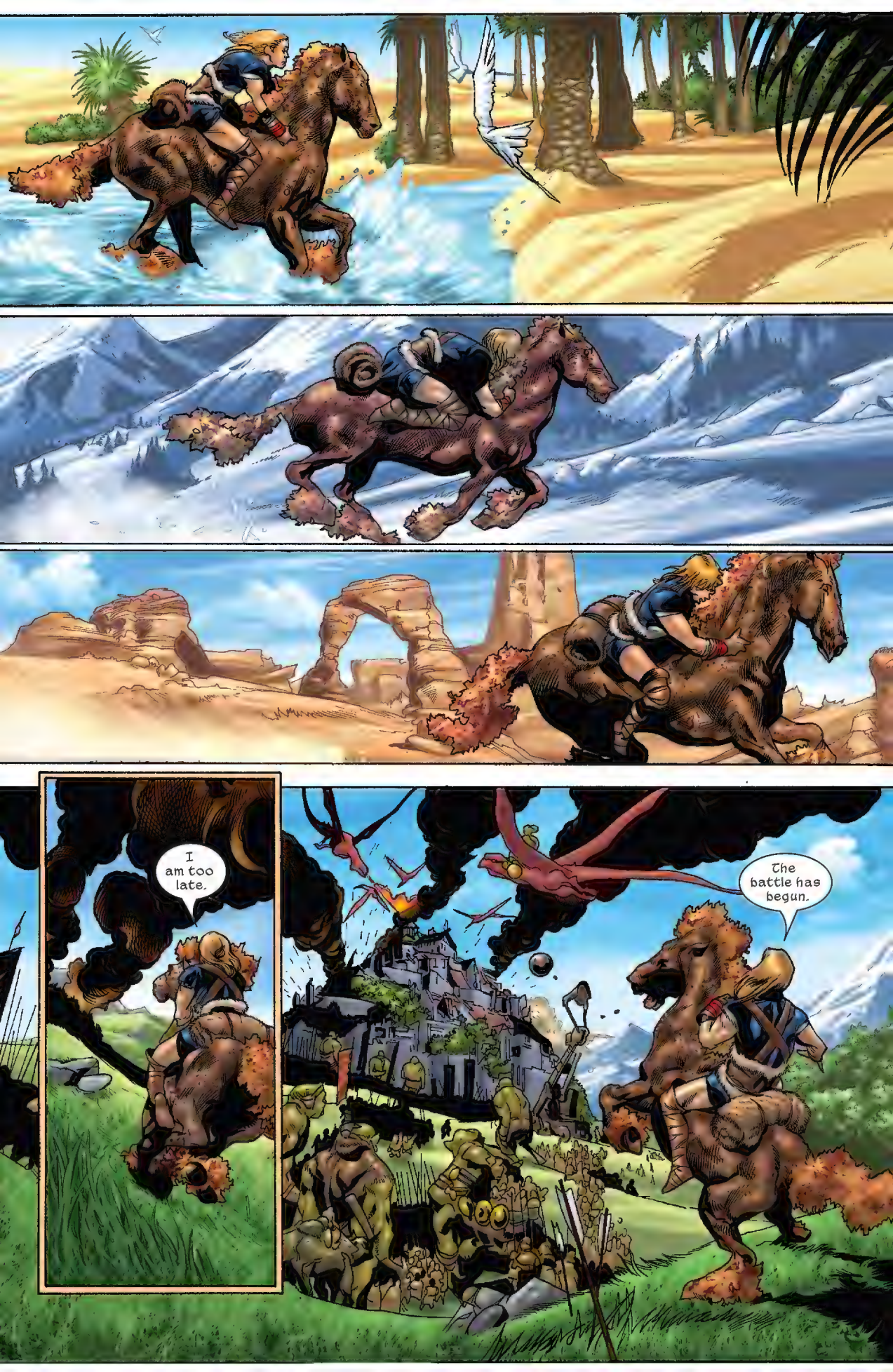
Later...
If memory serves, the Lake should be just over the crest of this hill. But I don't recall there being any sort of pillar on this path--
WHAPP!
OOF!
GGRRRR!!
THUMP
AAARGH!

Nothing shall stand in my way this day!
Taste the fury of Thor, son of Asgard!



Well-fought, Leviathan. That was truly a battle to be sung about.
But nothing shall keep me from the task at hand. The fourth element Odin requires is but a stone's throw away.
My quest will be at an end as I reach the Lake of Lili--
No!

The Lake of Lilitha...
It's gone!
What magic is this?! How could--
Karnilla!
nnooooo!!!!
You will pay dearly for this, witch!
But I will not leave these lands empty-handed. I will bring a token of the lake as a reminder of my failure today so I will never taste such bitterness again.
To Asgard.


I am too late.
The battle has begun.

FOR ASGARD!

Thor! It is Thor!

The prince of Asgard has returned!

HOORRAAHH!

Heimdall, has Sif returned to Asgard?

Aye, Thor, indeed she has. My sister, Balder and Loki arrived just before this monstrous army did. Their warning gave us time to prepare for the attack.

Then I must find them.

Thor!

You've returned... and just in time.

You obtained the water? The quest has been completed?

No, Karnilla dried the Lake and there was no water to be had.

So all the trials we suffered were for naught? We've failed?

Nay, Balder, I will brook no failure today.

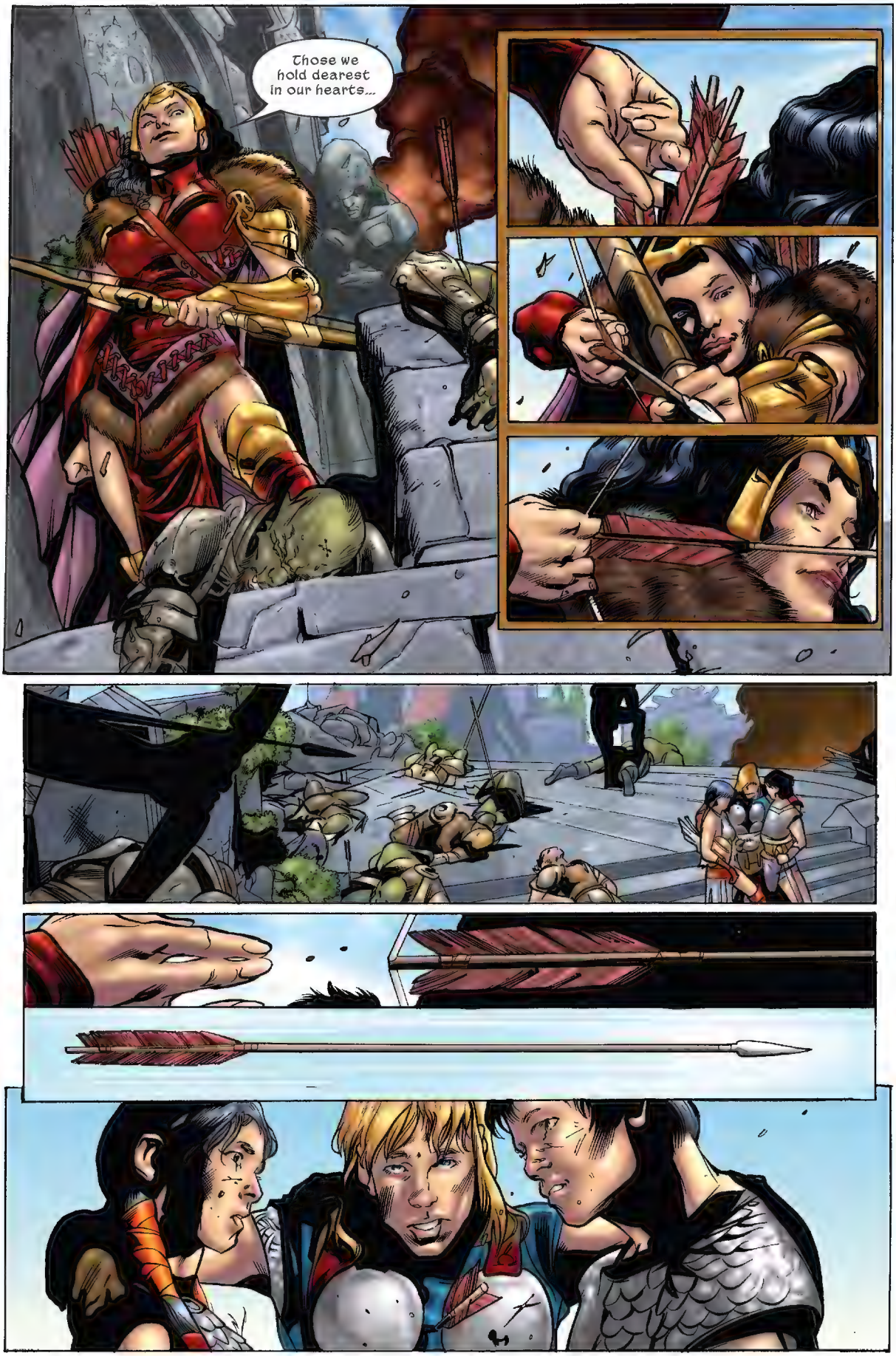
Welcome home, my son.

This is not exactly the homecoming I had envisioned, Father.

There will be time for celebration shortly.

Victory is almost ours.

We've done it! Asgard has won the day!
Though the battle may be over...
...a small victory may still be achieved this day...


Those we hold dearest in our hearts...

"...are the ones that will lead us to ruin."
The son of Odin has fallen.
Thor is dead!!

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Welcome, Kind Reader, to a Tale of Asgard...

Thor, the prince of Asgard, is a brash and impetuous youth. Never one to consider who he is or what he has, Thor's mind is always on who he will one day be and what the future holds for him. He feels he lives in the shadow of his father, Odin, ruler of all Asgard, and he hopes he can escape that fate through noble deeds and valiant acts.

When Odin asks Thor and his fellow young warriors, Balder and Sif, to undertake a quest on his behalf, Thor quickly agrees, without consulting his friends. Together they travel Asgard in search of four mystic elements which Odin hopes to forge into an enchanted sword. Though danger meets them at almost every turn, the trio of young warriors is able to collect the first three objects. But on their way to retrieve the fourth, Thor's younger half-brother, Loki, appears and warns them that the evil Norn Queen, Karnilla, is planning to attack Asgard. Along with Sif and Balder, Loki returns to Asgard to alert Odin of the impending onslaught, while Thor continues on alone to obtain the final element: water from the mystical Lake of Lilitha. However, upon reaching the shores of the Lilitha, Thor discovers that the lake had been dried and his quest has failed. All he can bring back now is a handful of dirt from the arid lake bed.

Thor returns home to find Asgard under attack. Karnilla's monstrous army has laid siege to the city and threatens all Thor holds dear. Without hesitation, Thor joins Sif and Balder to defend Asgard against the forces of evil. The tide of battle turns, and the Asgardian warriors are able to drive the invading beasts back. But, just as victory is theirs, Thor is struck down by a magic arrow-- the Son of Asgard is dead!

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The Square of the All-Father.

This can't be happening! It cannot end this way!

Thor is dead!!

Victory in battle may have escaped me this day...
...but by taking the life of their beloved prince, I have struck a blow against Asgard that shall never be forgotten!
Odin is sure to seek quick retribution.
I shall take advantage of this confusion, finish here and be quickly gone.
What business could the Queen of Norn possibly have in the chambers of the King of Asgard?!

Have you come to offer your condolences...
For attacking my kingdom and killing my people?!

Death is all I offer you, Odin!
You will pay for your crimes this day, Karnilla!
Have at thee, murderess!

THOOOOOMM
AAGGHH!!
KRA-KOOM

ZZRRAKK
Nicely done, witch. It is not often that Odin is caught unawares.
But you will not be so lucky a second time.

I need neither luck nor magicks to finish you, Odin.
WHAMM!

WHOOSH
SMASH!
THWUMP
For the terrible acts you have committed this day, I should offer no mercy.
But as I see you suffer there, Karnilla, I almost feel pity for you.
Beg for my forgiveness and I will spare your life...
...possibly.
Never! I will fight you until my dying breath, you cursed fool.
That is the answer I was hoping for.
So be it.

WHHHAAMM
CHUD
None walk away from Mjolnir's blow when dealt by the hand of Odin.
Now, Karnilla, it is time--
No.
Thor...

Forgive me, Thor. By sending you on this quest, I also sent you to your death.
I hoped to see my son become a man.
I hoped to see my son become King.
I hoped to see my son rule Asgard.
But now all I will see is my son buried too young.

My Lord, there are no words to describe the breaking of a heart... but ours have been shattered by the tragedy this day.
Asgard will mourn Thor's passing. He was beloved by all.
Most of all by you both.
A father's love for his son is expected... often taken for granted.
A friend's love, however, must be earned and given freely.
Balder, since you were children, you have stood by Thor's side, supporting and protecting him. Never once did your loyalty to your friend falter.
Although your blood does not flow through my veins, Lord Odin, Thor was like a brother to me.
And Sif, Thor's life would have been empty if not for your kindness and compassion. You lightened his heart and helped ease his burdens.
It was Thor who often brightened our days and brought joy to our lives. Never has there been a soul more kind and more noble than your son, my Lord.
Bless you, milady.
I lost my son... but you lost a friend.
The pain and suffering shall be ours to bear...
...but ours to share.
Farewell...

What's happening here?!
The dirt turns to water?
The waters of the Lake of Lilitha...

cough
SPLISH
cough
cough

What in Hela's name...?!
SPLOCH
What happened here?
Bless the branches of Yggdrasill!
THOR LIVES!!

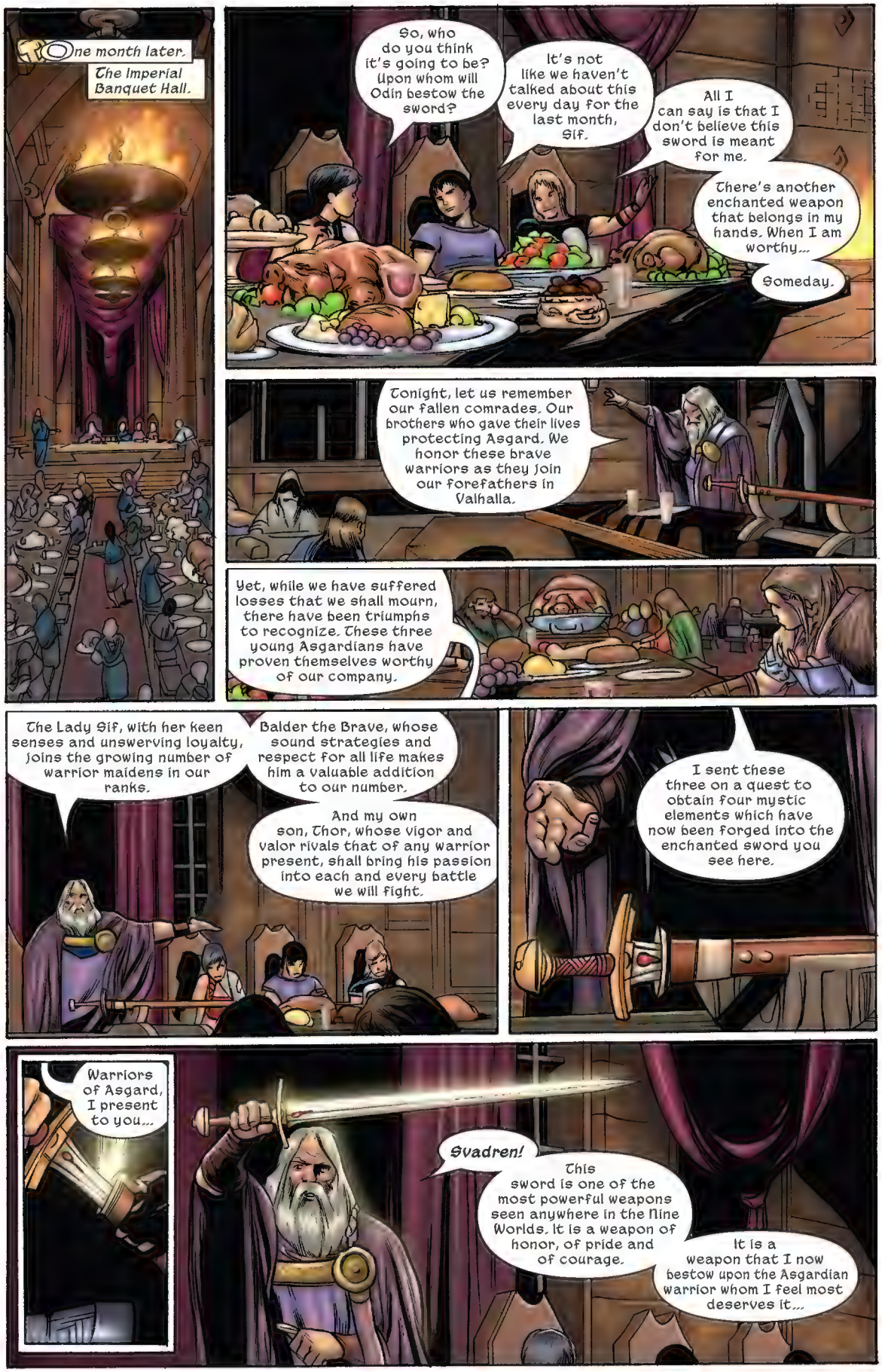
Please, Father, tell me what happened. Why does all of Asgard stare at me?
You fell in battle, my son. Not moments ago, you lay dead before our eyes in this very spot.
But how is this possible? The arrow left no mark...
We owe your life to the power of love and the Lake of Lilitha.
In my grief, I scattered the dried lake bed dirt over your body, knowing that we could draw water from it to save your life if touched by love's tears.
However, omniscience does not grant me the ability to control fate. I could only set the stage and hope that events would take their natural course. When Sif's tears came into contact with the enchanted earth, their healing powers brought you back to life.

So, water has been drawn from the Lake of Lilitha? We have successfully completed our quest!
Ha! You just don't quit, do you?
Look at you! Back from Hela's embrace only a few minutes and you're already worried about proving yourself.
You cheat death, Thor. What more do you need?
Well, when you put it that way...
HAHA
HAHAHAHA
AAAIEE!
One of your sons faced down death today, Odin.
Will the other be so lucky?!

LOKI!
Oh, come now. Secretly, you wish this young trickster dead, do you not? After all the trouble he's caused, would your lives not be easier without him?
From alerting the dragon to conjuring the rock troll, it was Loki here who tried to sabotage your ridiculous quest at every turn. He would rather see *you all* dead.
Please... no...
While all you say may be true, Karnilla, in the end, Loki chose the path of righteousness.
By warning us of your impending attack, it was Loki who raised the alarm and saved all of Asgard.
Are those the actions of someone who would want us all dead?
I think not.
How can you defend him? His hands are as dirty as mine.
My hands... that will spill blood once more today.
If you must take a life this day... take mine.
I forfeit it in exchange for Loki's.
And if the denizens of Asgard hate Loki, as you say, won't my death better satisfy your need for revenge?

You fool! What kind of man would sacrifice his life for that of his enemy?
A man who knows no enemy.
A man who believes in the value of all life.
A man who believes there is good in every soul.
Even in yours, Karnilla.
This is not over, Balder.

Balder, are you alright? What just happened?
The Norn Queen-- Where has she gone?
Fear not, my friends. I have a feeling we will not be seeing Karnilla again anytime soon.
What do you mean? She could still be lurking in the shadows...
No, Lady Sif, she will not be back this day.
Balder has opened her eyes to something she never knew existed. Something that will keep her occupied for quite some time.
Today was a day every father fears... a day in which I almost lost both my sons.
It is a day I hope I will never be forced to live again.
I am thankful beyond belief that you escaped with your lives.
But there are some who were not as lucky...
Citizens of Asgard, the victory that is ours this day comes at a heavy cost. The lives of many Asgardians have been lost in defense of our land. We must ensure their sacrifices were not made in vain. We will restore Asgard to the glory it once knew!
Amidst today's darkness we can also find a light of hope, for Asgard welcomes these new warriors into our ranks. Without their courage and fortitude, the battle may not have been won.
Tomorrow Agnar and Gotron will journey to meet Sindri, the King of the Dwarves. They will present him with four mystic elements that he will forge into a sword.
In one month's time, this sword will be brought here to Asgard, where I will bestow it upon the warrior I find most worthy.
I have much to consider.


One month later.
The Imperial Banquet Hall.
So, who do you think it's going to be? Upon whom will Odin bestow the sword?
It's not like we haven't talked about this every day for the last month, Sif.
All I can say is that I don't believe this sword is meant for me.
There's another enchanted weapon that belongs in my hands. When I am worthy...
Someday.
Tonight, let us remember our fallen comrades. Our brothers who gave their lives protecting Asgard. We honor these brave warriors as they join our forefathers in Valhalla.
Yet, while we have suffered losses that we shall mourn, there have been triumphs to recognize. These three young Asgardians have proven themselves worthy of our company.
The Lady Sif, with her keen senses and unswerving loyalty, joins the growing number of warrior maidens in our ranks.
Balder the Brave, whose sound strategies and respect for all life makes him a valuable addition to our number.
And my own son, Thor, whose vigor and valor rivals that of any warrior present, shall bring his passion into each and every battle we will fight.
I sent these three on a quest to obtain four mystic elements which have now been forged into the enchanted sword you see here.
Warriors of Asgard, I present to you...
Svadren!
This sword is one of the most powerful weapons seen anywhere in the Nine Worlds. It is a weapon of honor, of pride and of courage.
It is a weapon that I now bestow upon the Asgardian warrior whom I feel most deserves it...

Balder the Brave!
Thank you, Balder, for reminding us of the value of mercy and compassion. You are an inspiration that all in Asgard shall look up to and cherish.
May you wield this sword with honor in defense of our land and people.
FOR ASGARD!

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Fjornor Fields.
The Asgardian Training Grounds...

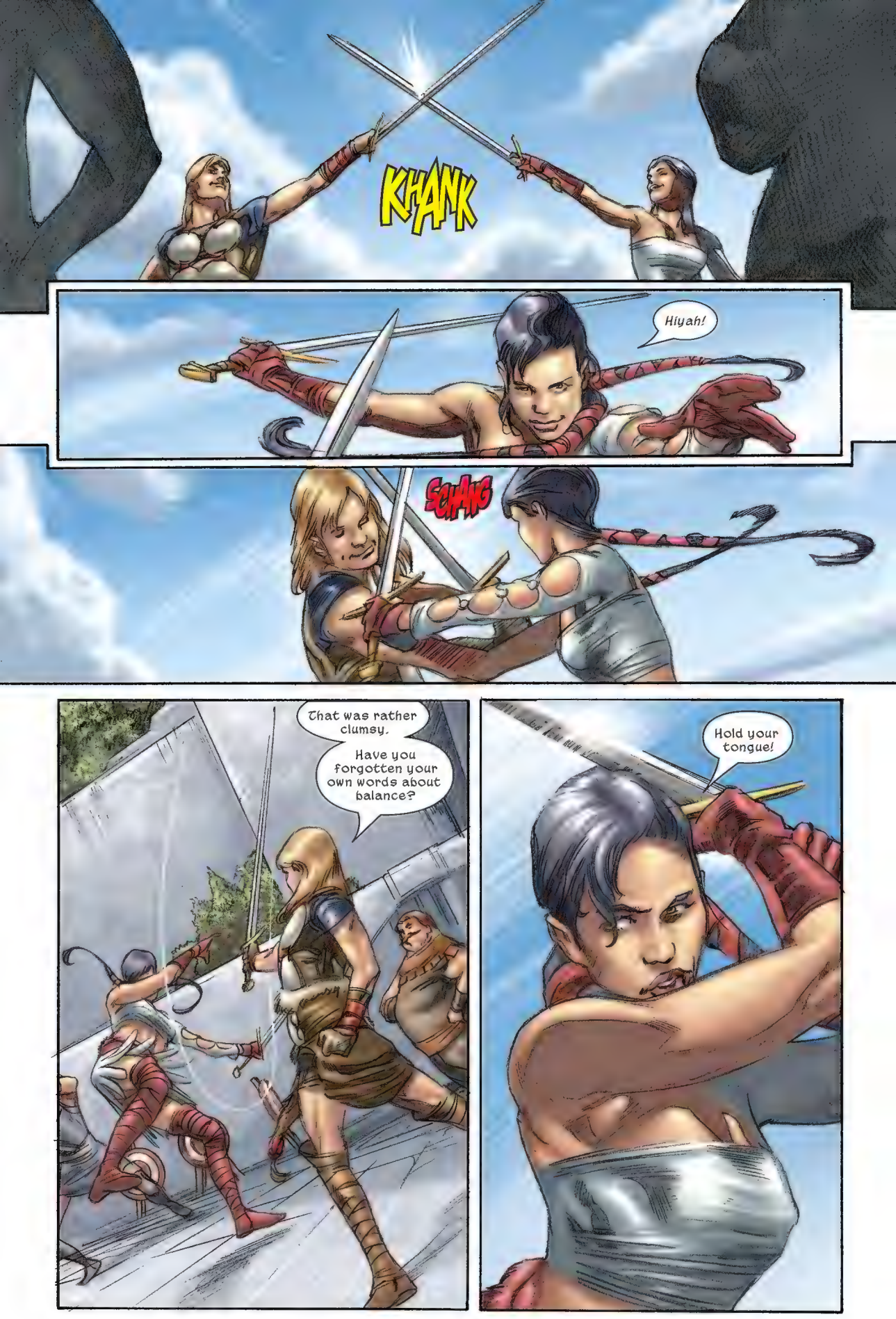
One does not have to be an omniscient ruler to know when something is troubling his wife...
Odin! I did not expect you so soon, my husband.
Merely a quick break, my love. It's been months since Karnilla's attack, but matters have yet to settle down.
And it appears as if your heart is also still unsettled.
Look there at our son, Odin. Our only son.
A boy who has his whole life ahead of him.
A boy we almost lost to the senseless violence of war.

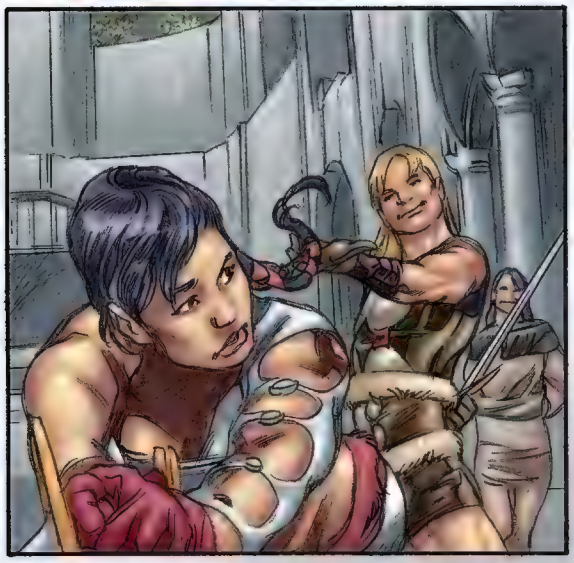
"And has he learned anything from his brush with death?
"No! Still he chooses to embrace the ways of war!"
As the wife of the All-Father, I understand better than any the importance of maintaining our armies and defenses. I know the sacrifices that must be made for the good of all Asgard.
Never have I questioned the ways of our warriors.
But now, having almost lost Thor, I find myself worrying about his future. I do not want to one day find myself a mother who has outlived her son.
And I do not want to be a father who must bury his child.
Frigga, I understand your fears. I was there as Thor lay dead, the arrow driven into his chest.
But that life has since returned. And while Thor may not show it, I do believe that Hela's cold touch did have an impact on him.
Your words do serve to soothe, my love. But I also see how he longs to live up to your expectations of him. How he will continue to take risks to win your approval.
So much like his father... he follows so closely in your footsteps.
And I do hope that, much like his father, he will be quick to learn a few lessons in love.
There are many maidens in Asgard who have hopes that his head will turn in their direction.
HEH HEH HEH...
I think those maidens will be disappointed. All of Asgard knows that Thor has been smitten with Sif since they were children.
I am sure the boy will soon come to his senses and realize that it is time to open his heart to her and make his intentions known.

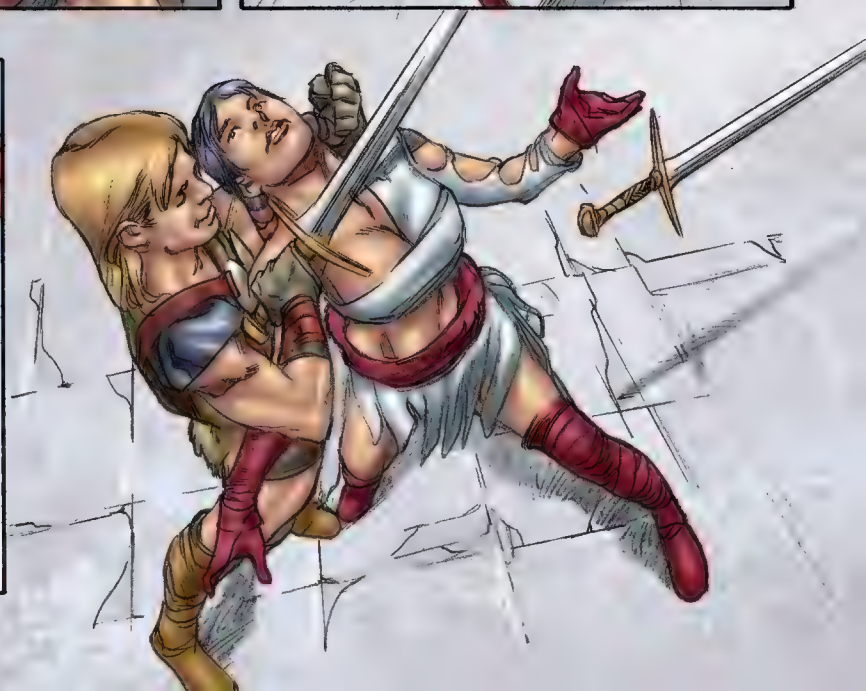
"If ever there was a fitting mate for our son, it is the Lady Sif."
Come now, Volstagg, show me your skill.
As I have made clear time and time again, I detest participating in these violent displays of combat. Even against opponents of the lesser sex...
And as we have made clear time and time again, you need to learn how to fight, you coward. And you could use the exercise, I must add...
Ho Ho! You'll not make fun of my size once you feel the weight of my blow!
CLANG!
It cannot be...
I think you will find that while weight and mass may provide force...

...there is much to be learned from a few quick lessons in balance.
SCHING
THUMP!
Anything more to say about the "lesser sex" now, Volstagg?
Perhaps if you talked less and trained more, you'd have the skills to back up your playful insults.
Ho Ho Ho. Well played. Well played.

So I guess that means you and I will be fighting in the final match today...
No need for a break after your last match?
I would hardly call Volstagg falling over much of a match.
But no, I barely broke a sweat.
Are you ready to face a real opponent?
Thor!
The pleasure shall be all mine, Sif.


KHANK
Hiyah!
SCHANG
That was rather clumsy.
Have you forgotten your own words about balance?
Hold your tongue!





Well?
I concede.
HOORAH!
We knew you could beat her, Thor!
She didn't stand a chance!
No way the only girl in our school could take you!
Here, Sif, let me--
I have no need for your pity!

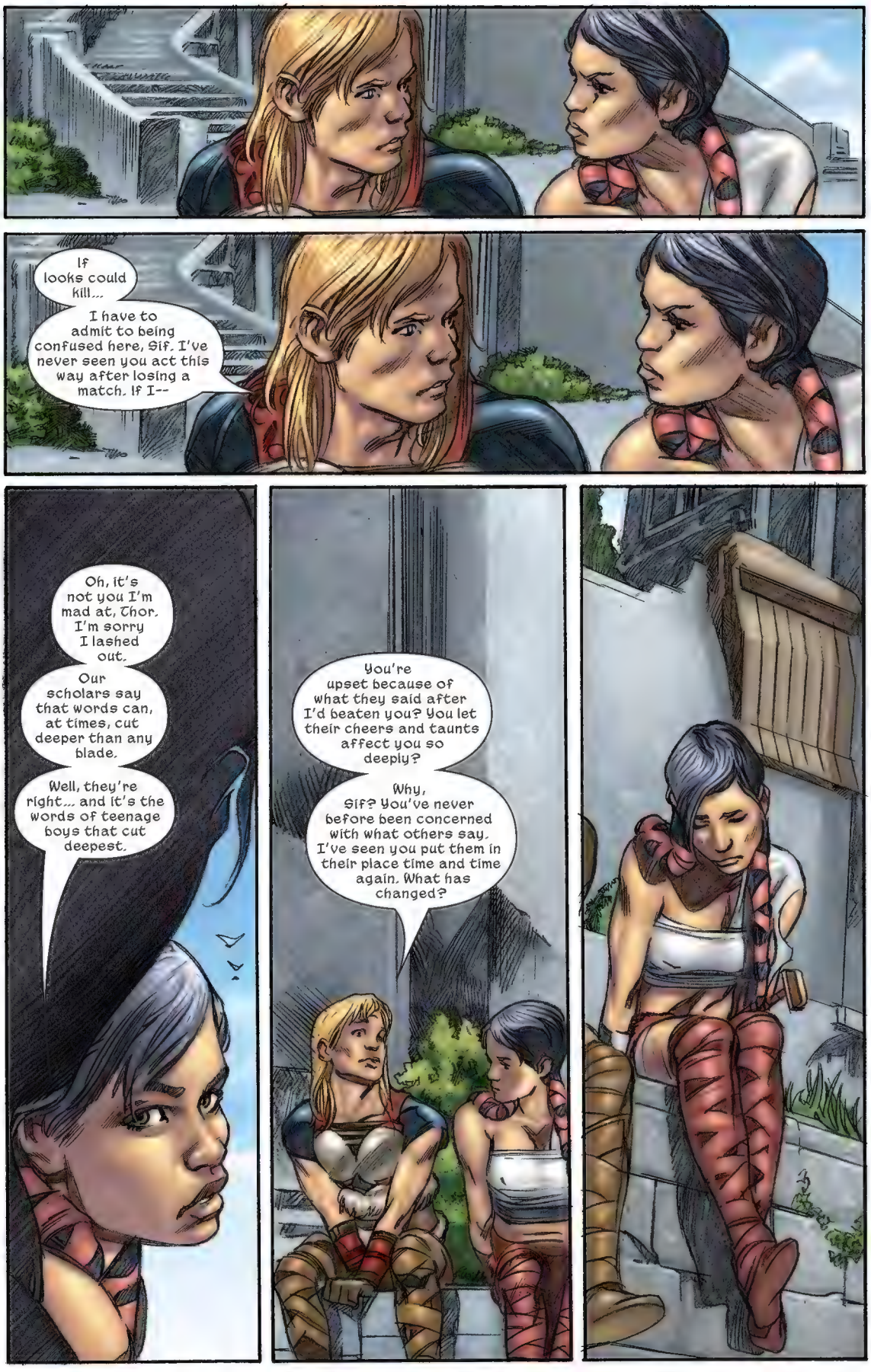
Yes, put her in her place!
While I'd have preferred Thor run her through with his sword, there's still joy to be found in seeing Sif suffer defeat at his hands.
She's yet to pay for the indignities I have suffered due to her actions. No woman gets the better of Loki!

Shouldn't the only boy in sorcery school share some kind of secret bond with the only girl in a class of male warriors?
I'd have thought you and Sif got together for tea to commiserate about your hatred of the opposite sex?
I'd recognize that voice anywhere. Show yourself...
SZRAS
BRAKK
...Amora!
The one and only.

Loki, Loki, Loki....
You should watch your tongue. Letting your hatred bubble up and out like that could get you in trouble.
Or was that a cry for help?
Is that what you want? Someone to notice you? Feel sorry for you? Take pity on you?
Or are you simply looking for a shoulder to cry on?
Your wiles won't work on me, you enchantress.
You may be able to use your charms to seduce those mindless barbarians outside, but I'll not fall prey to your magicks.
Try and cast a spell on me and I guarantee you'll live to regret it.
Now there's the Loki I was looking for.

What do you mean by that?
I'd heard you'd lost your edge after your little escapade into the wilds of Asgard.
But I know you better than that. I had to be sure that the old Loki, the Loki who's not afraid to get his hands dirty, was still in there somewhere.
Ha! I'm happy to report that rumors of my reform have been greatly exaggerated.
But why the interest, Amora?
Let's just say that you're not alone in your hatred of Sif.
Oh, really? This wouldn't have anything to do with my pompous pig of a brother, now would it?
Observant as ever, I see.
I am used to getting what I want, Loki, and I've made no secret of my affections for Thor. But try as I might to win his favor, his heart is set on another.
It is Sif's spell that Thor is under.
And it is that spell I will see broken.
No matter what the cost.
It seems we seek a similar goal. Yes, I do believe that an alliance is in order here.
With my mastery of mayhem and your bent to bewitch...

"...Sif and Thor don't stand a chance."
Mind if I have a seat?
Do you care to tell me what that was all about?


If looks could kill...
I have to admit to being confused here, Sif. I've never seen you act this way after losing a match. If I--
Oh, it's not you I'm mad at, Thor. I'm sorry I lashed out.
Our scholars say that words can, at times, cut deeper than any blade.
Well, they're right... and it's the words of teenage boys that cut deepest.
You're upset because of what they said after I'd beaten you? You let their cheers and taunts affect you so deeply?
Why, Sif? You've never before been concerned with what others say. I've seen you put them in their place time and time again. What has changed?

We're getting older, Thor. I'm no longer some little girl alone in a class with all boys. I'm a woman who spends all her time in the company of men.
And it's starting to get a little tiresome.
How many other Asgardian girls bring a sword to school?
None.
How many other Asgardian girls come home beaten, cut and bruised after a day of classes?
None.
How many other Asgardian girls will never get a date because all the men are scared of them?
None.
Sif...
How many other Asgardian girls have the undivided attention of the prince of Asgard?
None.

Well, well, well...
What have we here?
Is this what constitutes extra-curricular activity for our young warriors these days?
Tell me, Sif...
Did you have to work your way through all the boys in school to finally get a shot at the champ?
Oh, you're one to talk, Amora! You have no right to judge me, witch!
SMAK

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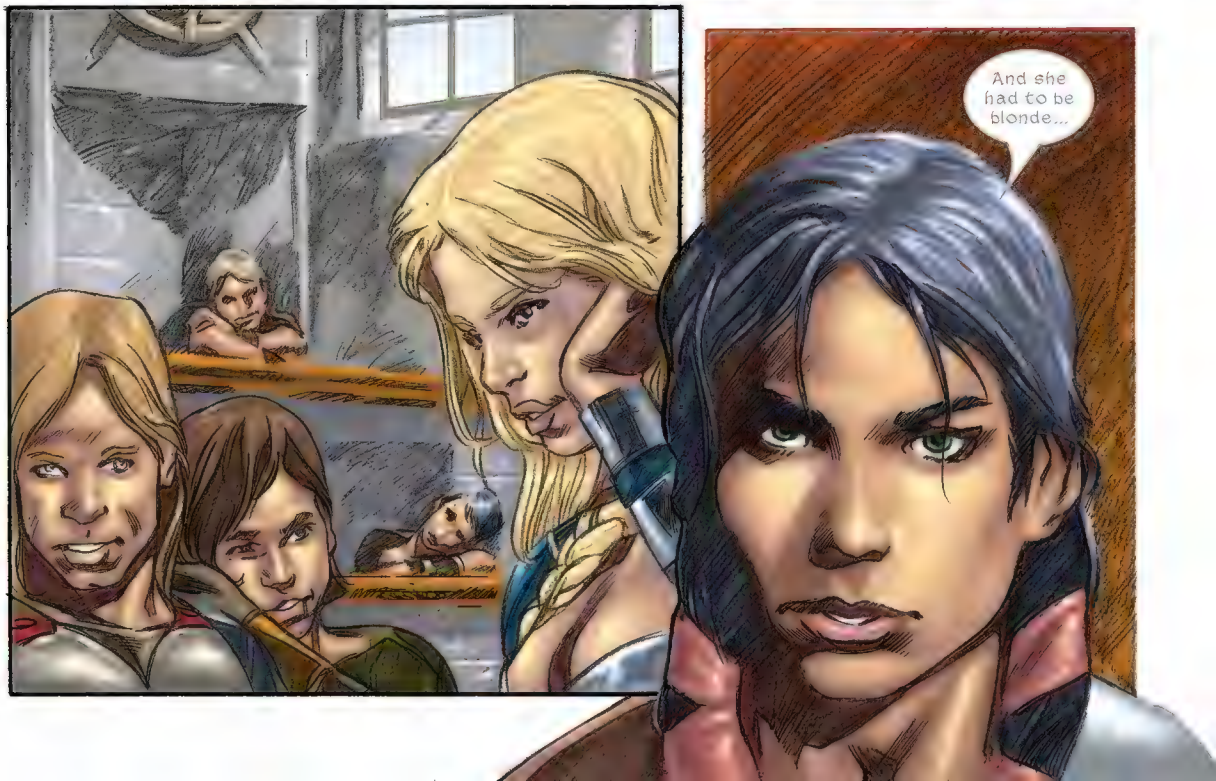
You dare lay a hand on me?!
You'll pay for that, you lowly cur!
Come and collect then, you blonde hussy!
Sif! Amora! Calm yourselves!
There's no need to come to blows over this. While Amora's verbal attack was indeed spiteful, surely there was no need to strike her, Sif...
You'd stand up for her after what she just said to me?!
So be it. You deal with her. Maybe you two were meant for each other...

The next day...
=Sigh=
How I wish I could skip today's lessons...
I'm sure word of my actions yesterday is already spreading.
It's my own fault for allowing them to get under my skin.
And what shall I say to Thor?
What almost happened between us...
Alas, today is a new day, so let it begin...
Ah, Sif, there you are.
As of today, you shall no longer be the only maiden in our school.

Sif, allow me to introduce our newest student...
Brunnhilda.


And she had to be blonde...

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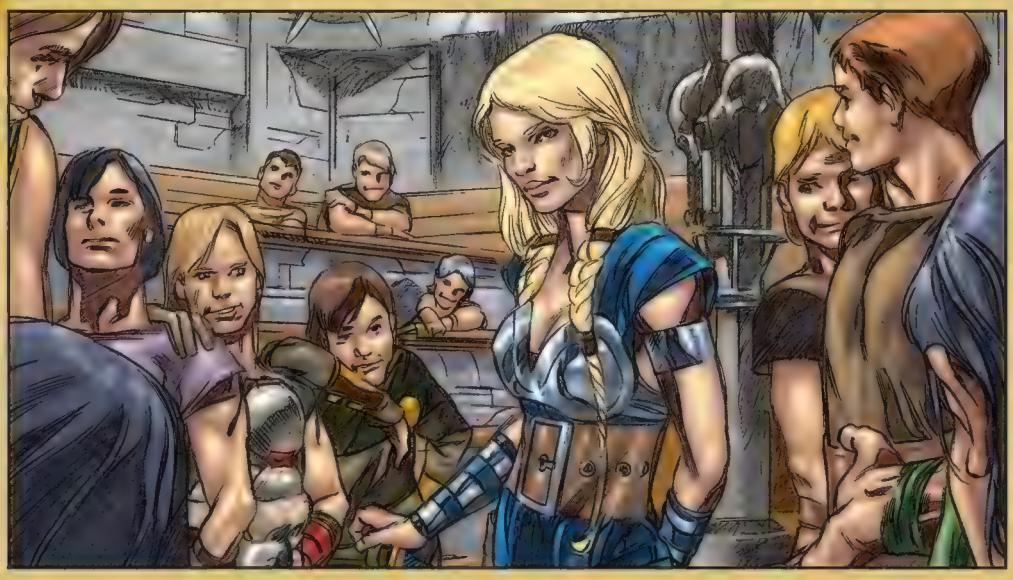
Welcome to a Tale of Asgard...

As warriors trained to defend Asgard from any threat, Thor and Sif have fought dragons, battled goblins and slain trolls. Now they are forced to confront something for which neither is prepared...their feelings for one another.

After defeating Sif at school in sword combat, Thor tries to console her, believing she is upset about the loss. Compassion soon turns to passion, however, and just as the teens are about to kiss, they are interrupted by the young enchantress, Amora, who seeks to win Thor's affections for herself.

The next morning, Sif desperately tries to put aside her jealousy and forget about the events of the previous day. But upon arriving at school, she is shocked to learn that a new female student has joined their class...a blonde bombshell named Brunnhilda!



Part Eight
The Trio Triumphant

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A black sheep amidst a fair-haired flock.

The Next Morning...
This is indeed a wonderful weapon, Balder.
Unbelievably light and balanced...
An enchanted sword...
...for an enchanting young warrior.

Now, show me your blade, Thor.
Surely the prince of Asgard possesses an enchanted weapon worthy of his royal position.
Although Odin's blood runs through my veins, my father treats me as he would any other warrior of Asgard. I receive no special favors, Brunnhilda.
To earn the right to receive an enchanted weapon, one must first prove himself in the All-Father's eyes.
One day I shall bear an enchanted weapon of my own. However...
...I have not yet proven myself worthy of such an honor.

You?! The Odinson...not worthy?!
Surely you jest.
How could the ruler of Asgard not bestow an enchanted weapon on his favored son?!
Is this some joke you play on all the new students?
I can assure you this is no joking matter, Brun--
How dare you?!
What right do you have to insult Thor?!
After only a day here with us, you feel the need to belittle him?!
I think Brunnhilda simply thought--
I will not tolerate such disrespect.
Good, I see you've finally found your tongue, Sif. After all that sulking and pouting yesterday, I was beginning to wonder...
...if a woman like you even deserved being in warriors' school.

WHAK
I see I might have misjudged you after all.
Time to test your mettle, maiden.
THUMP
FWOM
WHAK

WUMP
SLAM
KRAK
KRAK
Have you had enough yet, blondie?!

Funny you should mention my hair.
I hope you're not too attached to yours.
AAIEEE!
Have you had enough yet?!

Sif!! Brunnhilda!!
Both of you get to your feet!
By Odin's beard! What has come over you two?
Fighting outside of lessons is strictly forbidden.
Who started this ruckus?!
It was Sif.
Indeed. Sif struck Brunnhilda first.
Brunnhilda was defending herself.
Thor, do your classmates speak the truth?
Yes... yes, sir. In her anger, Sif was first to...land a blow.

You and I will speak of this at length later, Lady Sif. This is no way to make Brunnhilda feel welcome here.
Both of you go and wash yourselves up. Separately.
Brunnhilda, you stay here and use our facilities.
Sif, you go see what the sorcery school can provide you with.
Poor, Sif...
Having a little trouble adjusting to the fact you're no longer the only girl in class?
Jealousy is going to do wonders for your complexion.

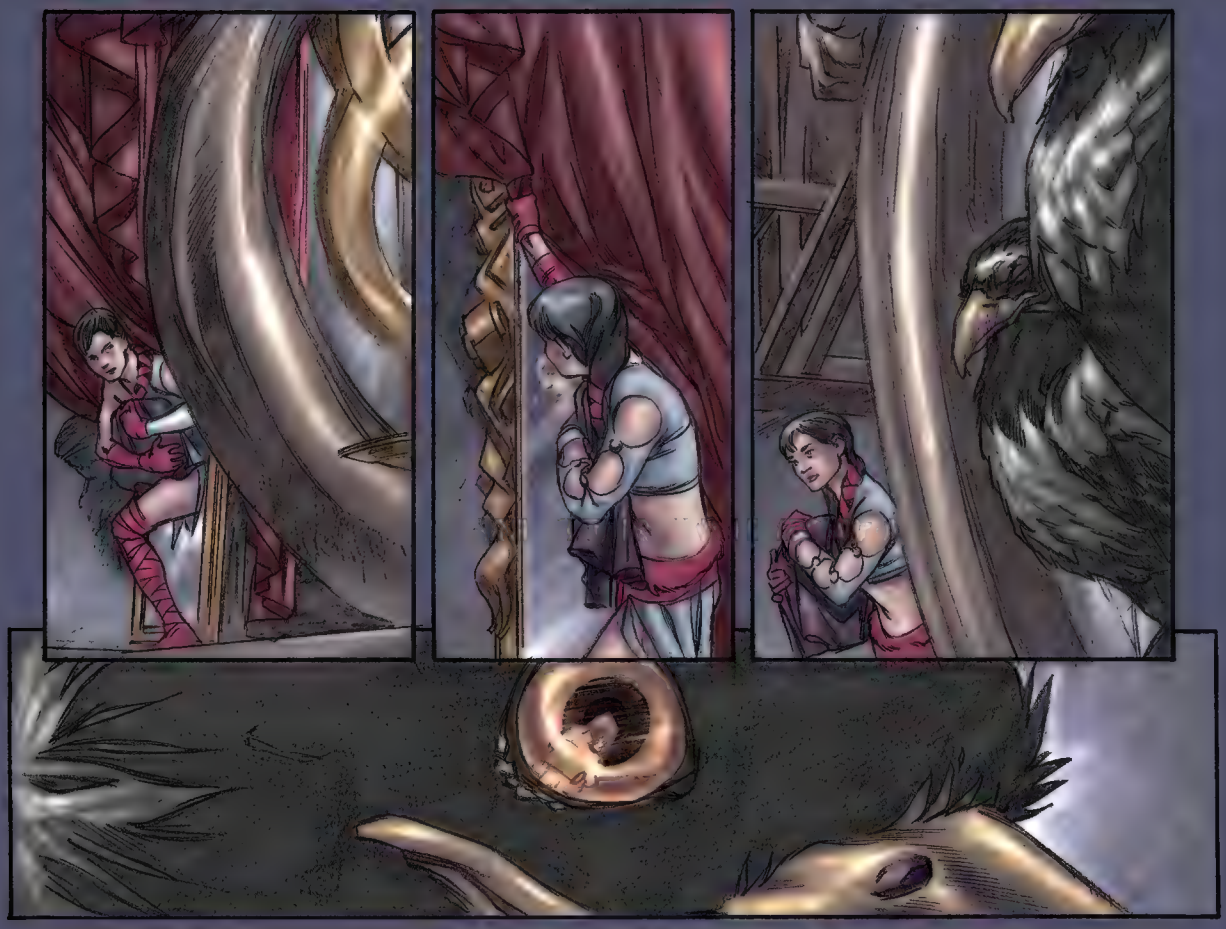
But I'd bet the pain from that beating you just took is nothing compared to the hurt you're feeling inside.
What do you...?!
You used to be the apple of Thor's eye.
Could it be that Thor has had a change of heart?
First he stood up for me when you chose to attack me.
And just now, did he not take Brunnhilda's side?
Could it be that he has finally had enough of your brutish ways and wants to explore more feminine options?
You witch...
Well-done, Amora. Masterfully played.
And so the stage is set, Loki. It's now up to you to take us through to the final act of this little drama.
Not to worry, enchantress. Once I've played my part, Thor will only have eyes for you.

Loki?! Leave me be!
I wish to be alone with my thoughts.
Good day, Sif.
Alone with your thoughts...of Thor?
Hold your tongue, trickster!
You're best off not mentioning matters you know nothing about.
Oh, but you see, dear Sif...jealousy is a matter I do know something about.
May I?
If you must.

As someone who's been on the receiving end of Amora's anger before, I know how much her words can hurt.
You saw us?
Oh, yes. I also caught your altercation with the new girl... Brunnhilda, I believe.
At least now we know to stay at arm's length from that brute.
Not having a good morning, are you?
You could say that.
So what do you want, Loki?
Why would I want anything from you, Sif? Can't I just lend an ear and offer some advice to an old friend?
Loki, please...enough with the false pleasantries. You hate me just as much as I detest you.
The sooner you spit out your intentions, the sooner you can stop being nice to me.
Fine, I'll admit it. I need your help.
My help?! After all the trouble you've caused me over the years?
What would make you think I would ever lower myself to help you?
You'd not just be helping me. You'd also be helping yourself.

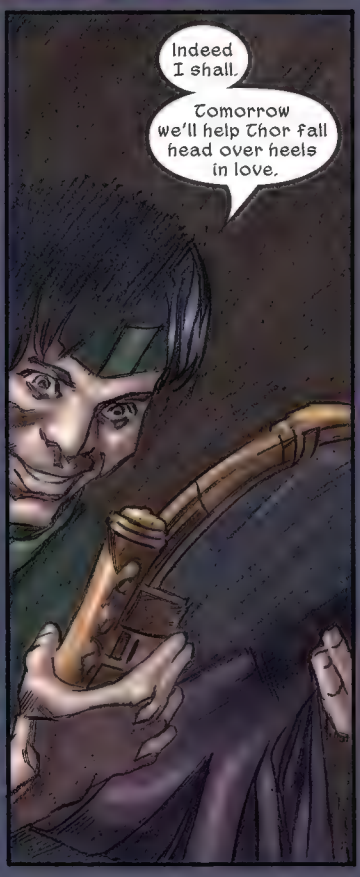
I want you to retrieve the Mirror of Mycha.
The Mirror of Mycha?! You know where it is?
I do. I have also learned the spell that will unlock its magicks.
But how? It's said only a woman's touch can bring the Mirror to life...
Which is exactly why I need your help in obtaining it.
Once the spell is cast upon the Mirror of Mycha, any who look into it fall instantly in love with the person holding it.
Why would you want to use it, Loki? I doubt there's any room for love in your black heart.
Your words wound me, milady. But alas, the Mirror can help us both.
An enchanted push is just what my dim-witted half-brother needs to make him finally open his heart and return your affections.
As for me...well, let's just say there is a young maiden upon whom my heart has become set.
Amora?!
...
Aye, no matter how poorly she may treat me, I cannot escape her charms.
So after you've used the Mirror to captivate Thor, you will then help me make her mine!
You have wronged me at every turn in the past, Loki. I see no reason why I should trust you now.
But if Odin were to ever discover--
I understand your caution given my past actions, Sif. However, you need not trust me. Put your trust in your feelings for Thor. What do they tell you?
Is Thor's eternal love not worth the risk?
Allow me this one chance to make up for my past sins against you. We will both get what we truly deserve.
You have my word on that, Sif.

"Now where will I find the Mirror?"
"To find the one mirror, you must first locate another..."



Did you get it?

Yes, I've accomplished my part.
Now you must live up to your end of our bargain.


Indeed I shall.
Tomorrow we'll help Thor fall head over heels in love.

The Next Day...
From the look of it, we're not a moment too soon. See how he's fawning over her?!
That's quite enough!
Cast the spell and let us get this over with, Loki.
As you wish.
It's done. Now all you need to do is have Thor gaze into the Mirror.
He will fall deeply in love with whoever is holding the Mirror when it captures his reflection.

ZWAASH!
I'll take that, thank you.
Rather than knock you out, I've placed you in a simple petrification spell, Sif.
This way, you'll be able to watch as Thor falls in love with *me*.

Thor!
Amora?

MARVEL
PSR 9
YOSHIDA
TOCCHINI
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THOR
Son of Asgard
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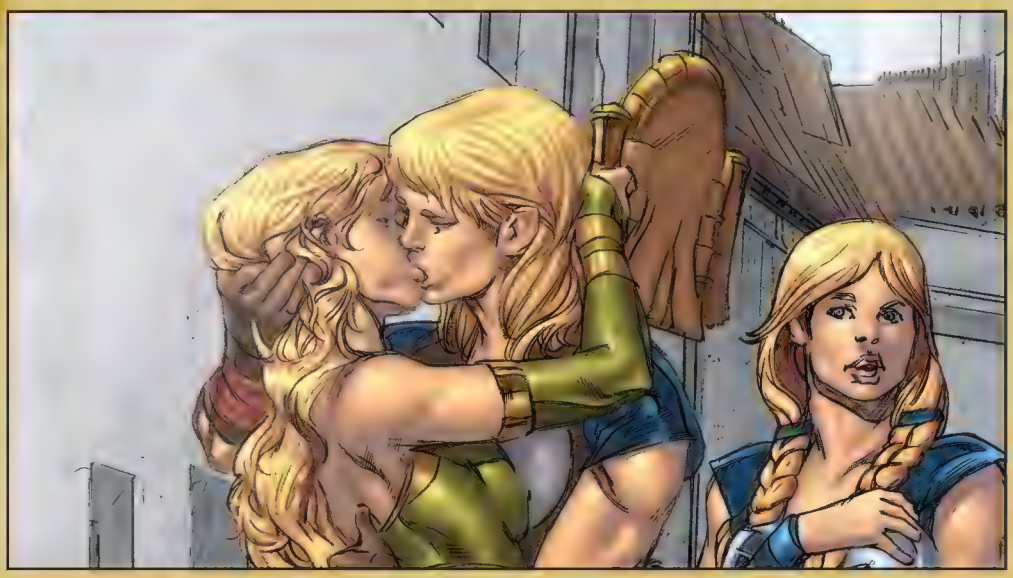
Welcome to a Tale of Asgard...

As warriors trained to defend Asgard from any threat, Thor and Sif have fought dragons, battled goblins and slain trolls. Now they are forced to confront something for which neither is prepared...their feelings for one another.

After defeating Sif at school in sword combat, Thor tries to console her, believing she is upset about the loss. Compassion soon turns to passion, however, and just as the teens are about to kiss, they are interrupted by the young enchantress, Amora, who seeks to win Thor's affections for herself.

To make matters worse, a new female student has joined Sif and Thor's class, a blonde bombshell named Brunnhilda, whose presence only helps fuel the fire of Sif's jealousy!

Desperate to gain the advantage once more, Sif places her feelings for Thor above her hatred of Loki when she agrees to help him steal the Mirror of Mycha from Odin's chambers. It is rumored that the enchanted mirror can cause any who look into it to fall in love with the bearer. However, before Sif can use this magic on Thor, she is frozen in place by Amora, who, along with Loki, had planned to betray her all along. Amora steals the mirror and Sif is forced to watch as her true love shares his first kiss - with Amora!



ENCHANTED
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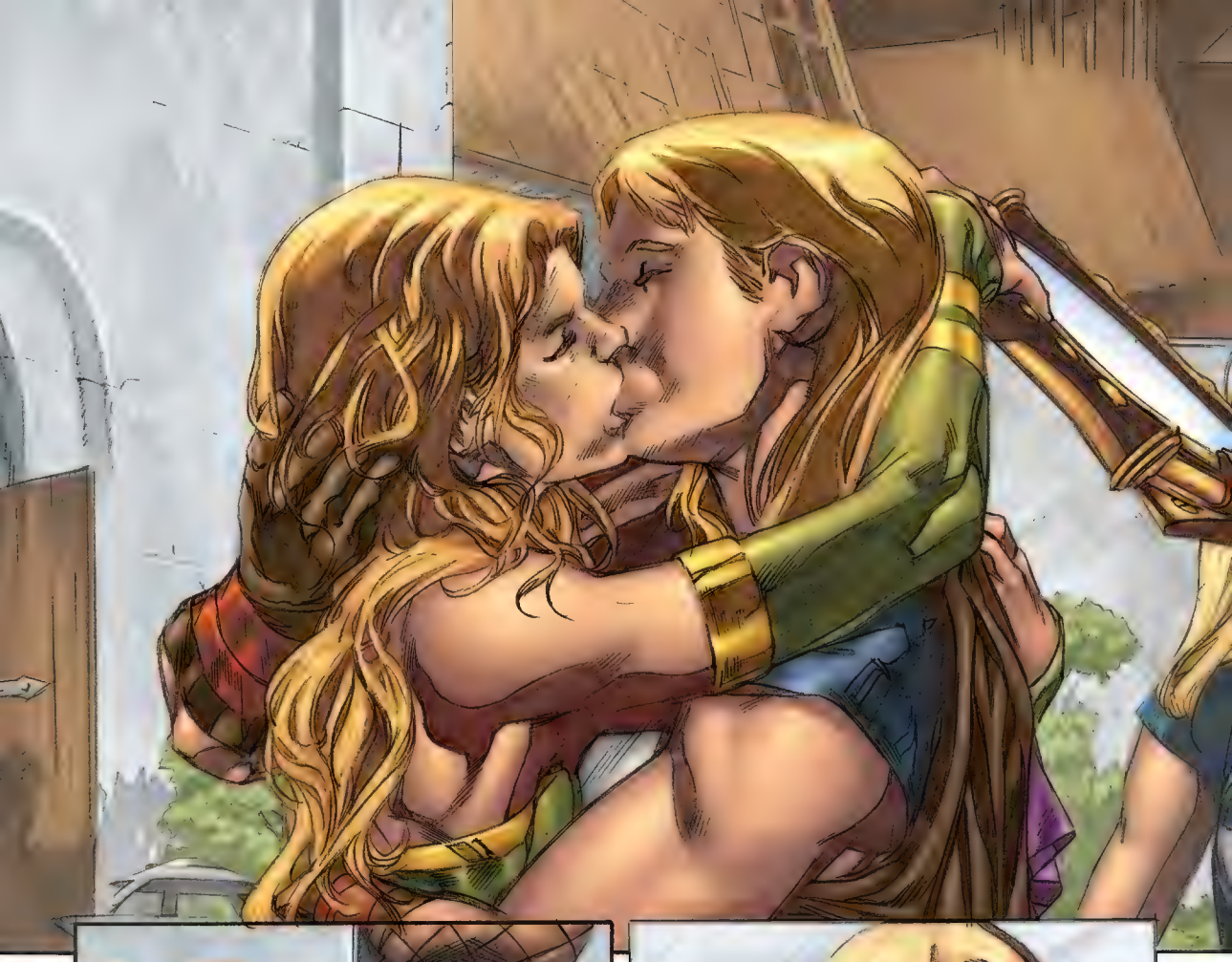
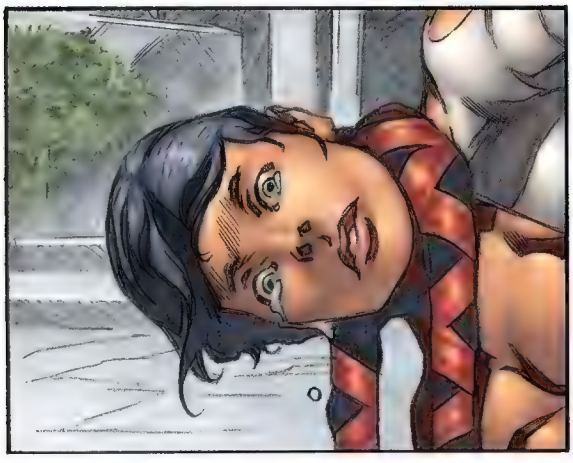
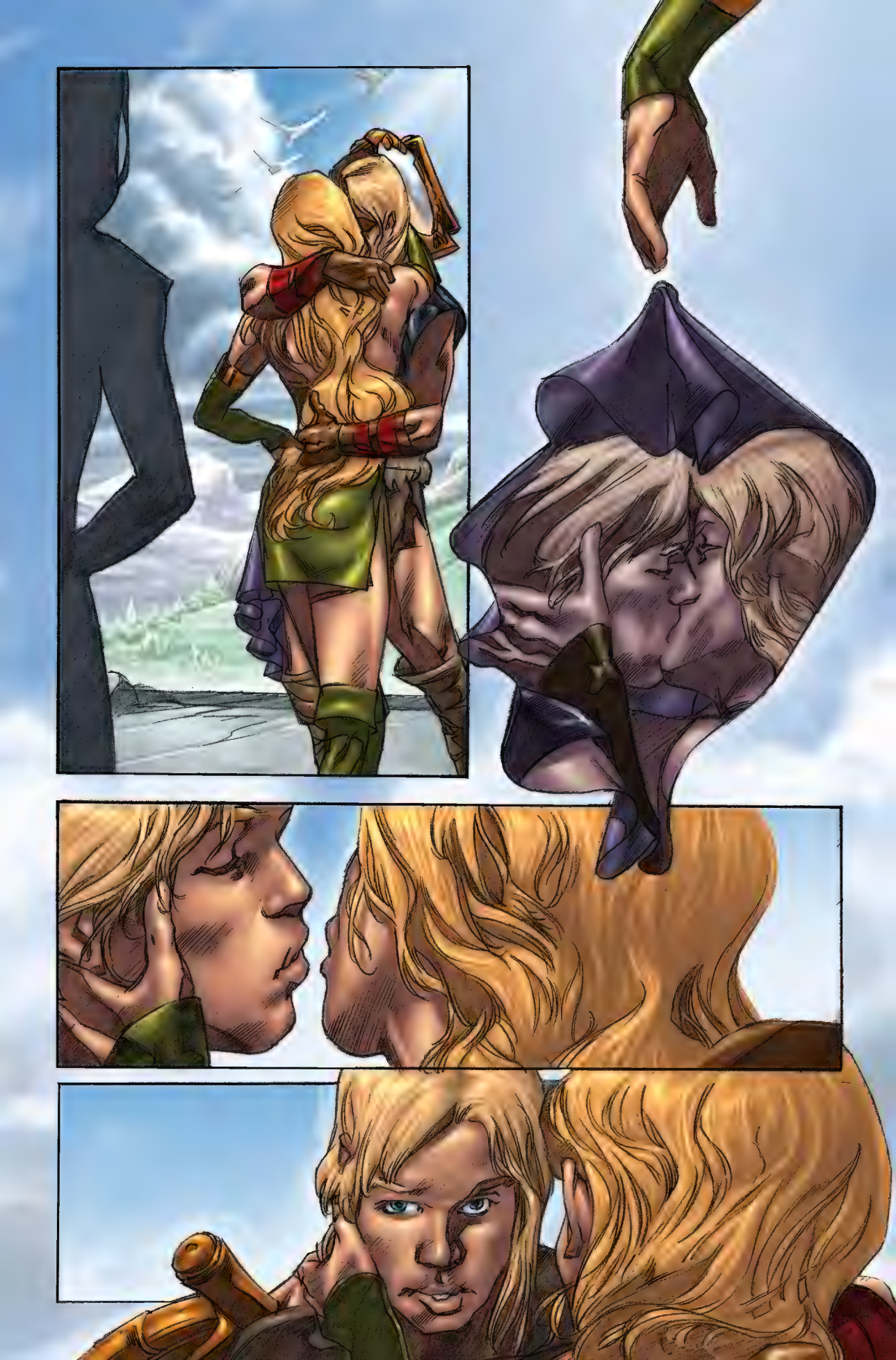


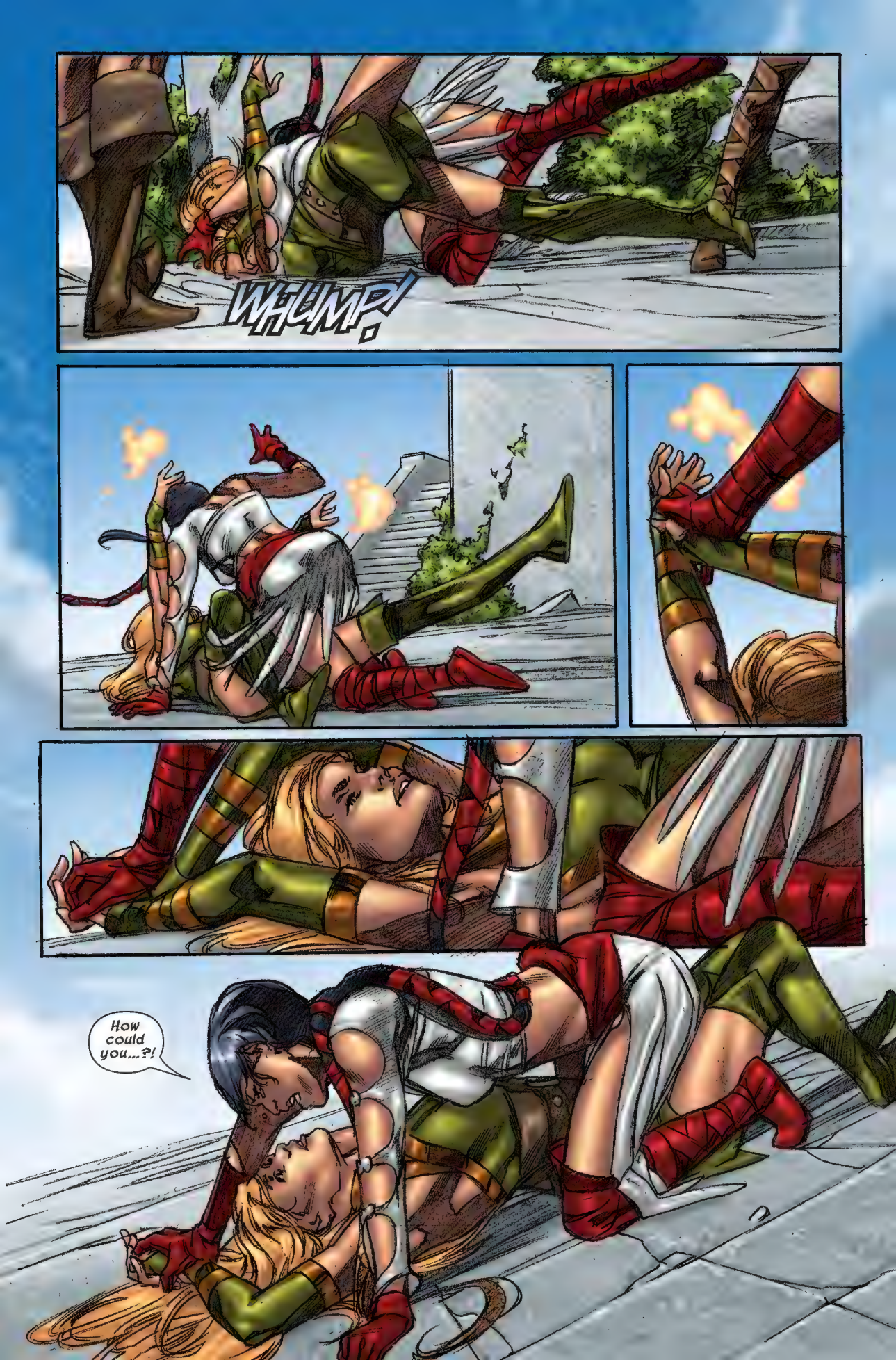


Tsk Tsk Tsk
What an unexpected turn of events.
Who could have known Amora would be lying in wait for you, Sif?
Who could have guessed she knew about the Mirror of Mycha?
Who could have wanted to see your heart broken like this?

Ah, yes...now I remember.
That would be **me!**
Despite my best efforts in the past, you've always seen through my plots and schemes... managed to turn the tables on me and come out unscathed.
But not this time. Oh, no...this time the damage has been done.
I was finally able to find that chink in your armor--your foolish affection for Thor--and use it against you to hit you where it hurts most.
But alas, I can't take all the credit.
Amora played her part in this little ruse as well.
Let me free you from that spell so you can properly thank her for all she's done.
HA HA HA HA

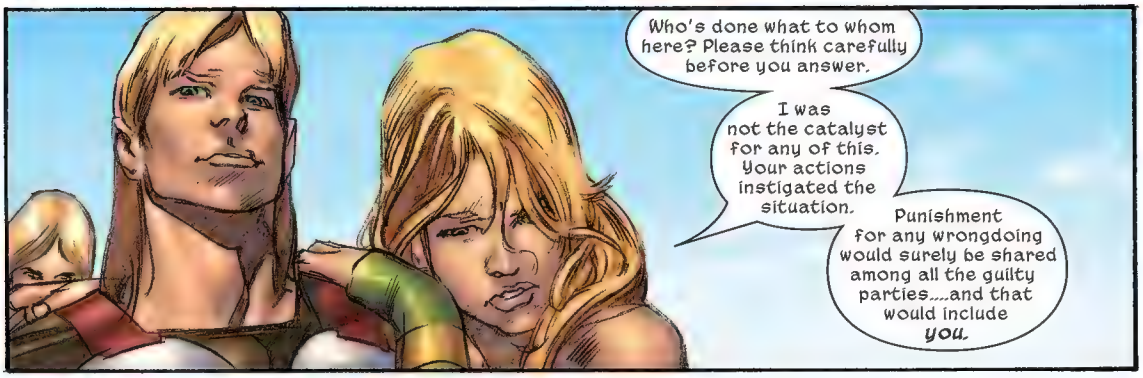


Amora, I've been a fool for keeping my feelings buried. Forgive me for not acting upon them sooner...
Better late than never, Thor.
Sometimes a small spark is all that is needed to ignite the flames of love.
Now, as you've finally come to your senses and realized where your true feelings lie, I suggest we begin making up for lost time, my prince. I do believe--
Oh, this is just perf--


WHUMP!
How could you...?!

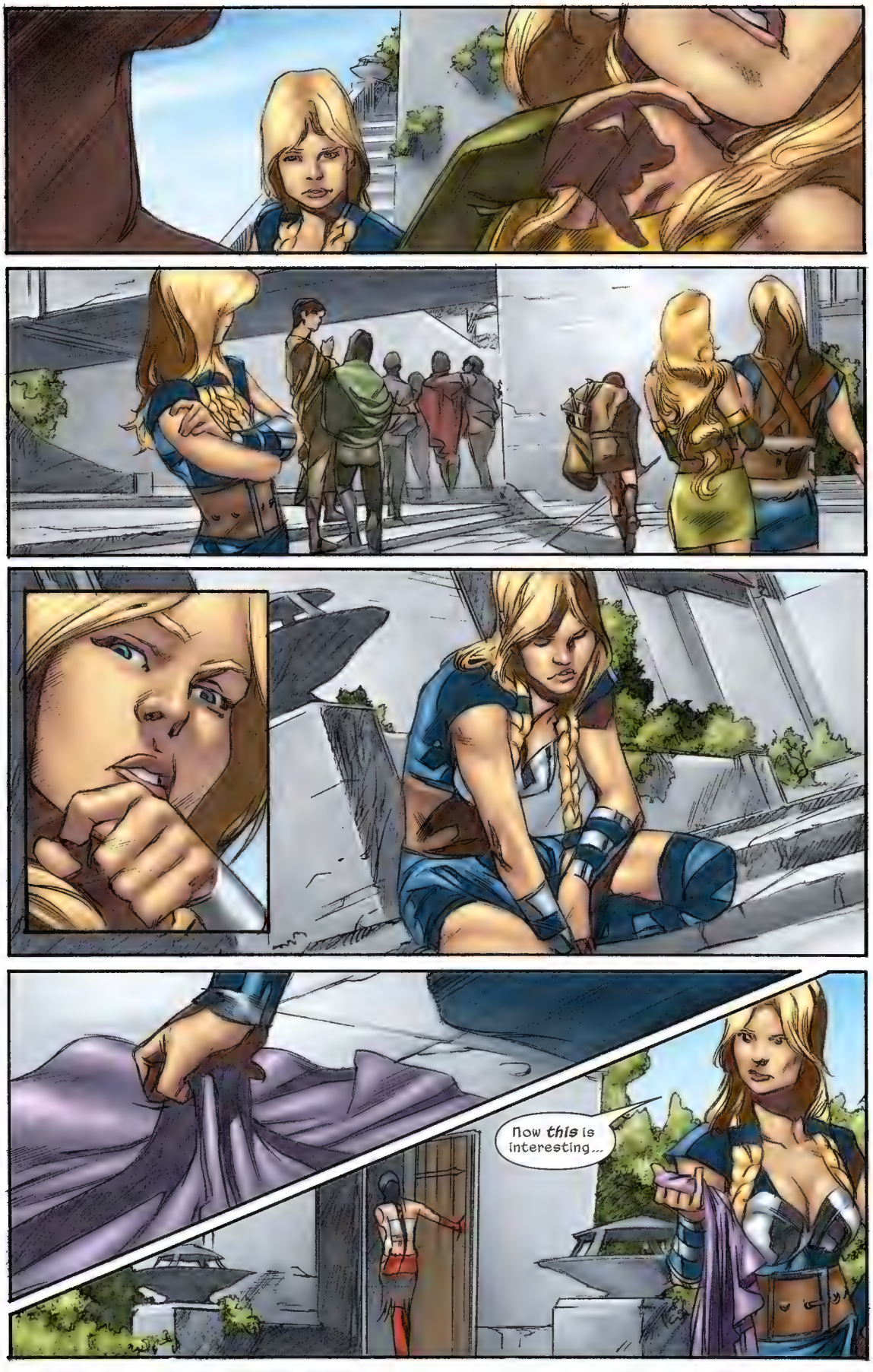
I may not be a warrior such as yourself, but now you know I'm just as skilled at opening wounds and inflicting pain.
I'm going to savor every moment of your pain and suffering.
Not until I taste yours.
Thor?
Leave her be, Sif!

But Thor, Amora--
She's done nothing wrong here. It's you who are at fault.
First you attack Brunnhilda, now Amora. What's gotten into you?
Do you have any idea what she's done to--


Who's done what to whom here? Please think carefully before you answer.
I was not the catalyst for any of this. Your actions instigated the situation.
Punishment for any wrongdoing would surely be shared among all the guilty parties....and that would include *you.*

Why don't you go cool off and think about **that** before you open your mouth again?

Very well.
This round goes to you, Amora.
Just what was that all about?
Nothing you'd understand, darling.
Girl stuff.


Now *this* is interesting...

Come to gloat, Brunnhilda?
No, I've come to help, actually.
The bag that held the Mirror of Mycha!
Where did you find this?!
I found it on the training grounds after Amora and Thor left. Your words now confirm my suspicions as to what transpired earlier.
So Amora did use the Mirror to win Thor's heart. But it's your role in this drama that now puzzles me, Sif.

I was planning on using the Mirror of Mycha on Thor. I was so jealous of you and Amora that I sought to use its power for my own selfish means so no one else could have him.
With Loki's aid I stole the Mirror, but he betrayed me, causing the Mirror, and Thor's love, to fall into Amora's hands.
Despite all my training, I allowed my emotions to get the better of me.
I played right into their hands and am now just as guilty as they are.
Love is an emotion even the most experienced warriors are forced to yield to, Sif. It makes victims of us all.
You may have walked away, but you did not admit defeat.
You are still a warrior, and this battle is far from over.
And we maidens must stick together.
After how I've treated you, you'd still stand at my side?
Equal blame for our original outburst lies on my shoulders. I was just as quick to provoke you as you were to lash out.
First impressions often deserve second chances.
Thank you.
So what's our next move?
To get away with this, they'll have to return the Mirror before Odin realizes it's missing, but they'll need its pouch to do so.
And that gives us an advantage. So we find Amora and Loki and strike a bargain?
Yes. So long as we have the chance for a little payback first.

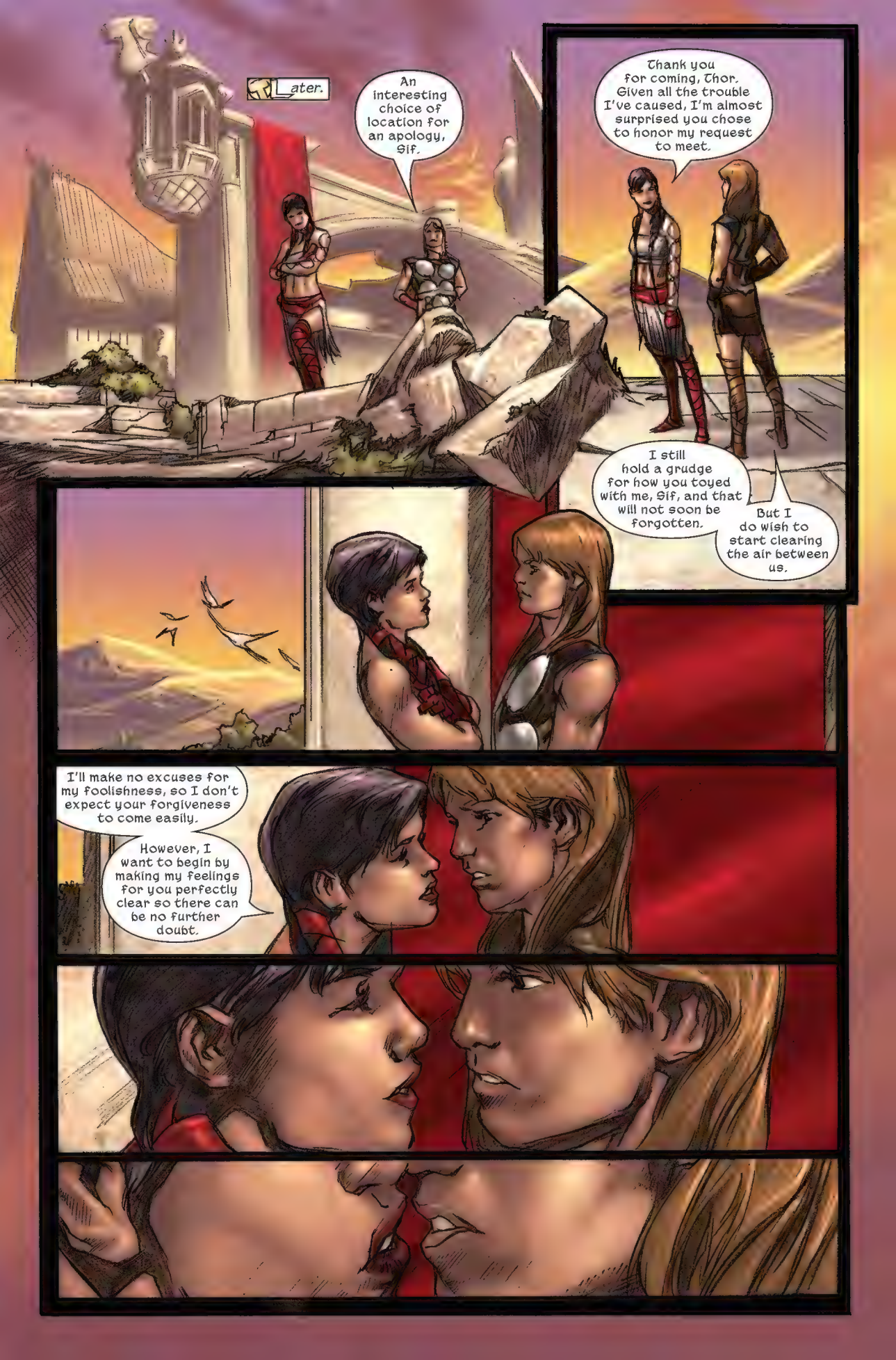
Forgive my enthusiasm, Amora, but it is as if a dam that has been holding back my feelings for you has suddenly burst.
I tend to have that effect on men, Thor.
Well, I hope I'm the only man for you now.
For no other woman in Asgard means anything to me.
Even Sif?
Sif...
Why did you hesitate? Do you still feel something for that tramp?
No, it's just...I'm not sure.
She means nothing to you, Thor. Any feelings you had for Sif are part of your past. Something to be swept under the rug and forgotten.
You have eyes only for me now. I am your--
FORGET SOMETHING? COME UPSTAIRS. NOW!
I'll be back in a moment, my love.
I expect you to spend the time thinking of nothing but me.

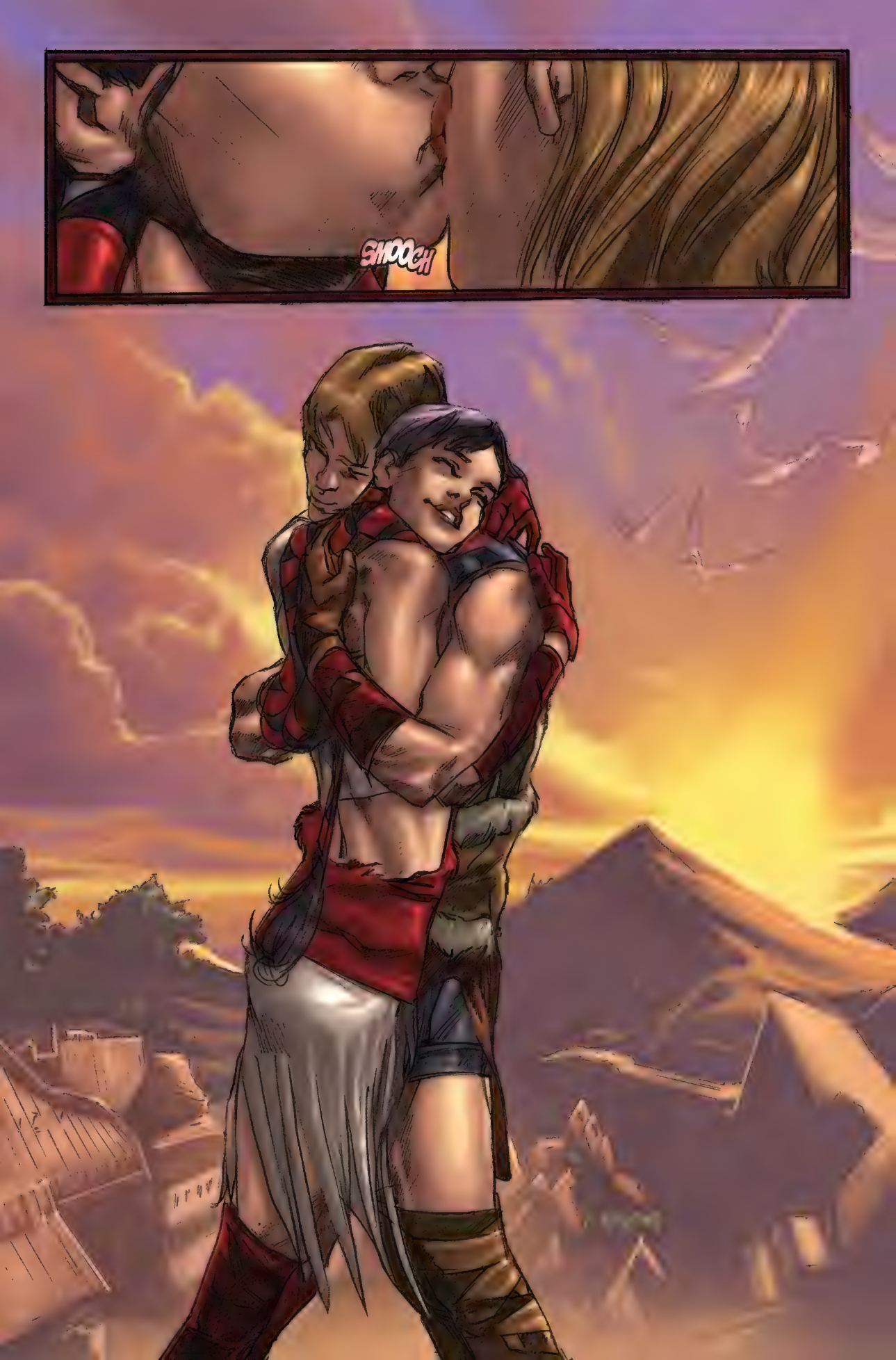
Oh, I would say it is very much your problem, Loki! We can't return this thing without its pouch.
I told you I would obtain the Mirror and activate it for you, Amora. Who said anything about returning it?
I'm not the one who actually used it, so there's nothing that ties me to this crime.
Looking for this?
Why you--
Your true colors shining through again, I see.
Is there anyone you won't stab in the back, Loki?
Give us the pouch back, Sif. We'll return the Mirror with no one the wiser.
So quick to change your tune, are you, Loki?
The pouch is yours... as long as you reverse the spell you cast on Thor.
Never!
Then I guess we do this the hard way?
Shall we?
Oh, I'm going to enjoy this!

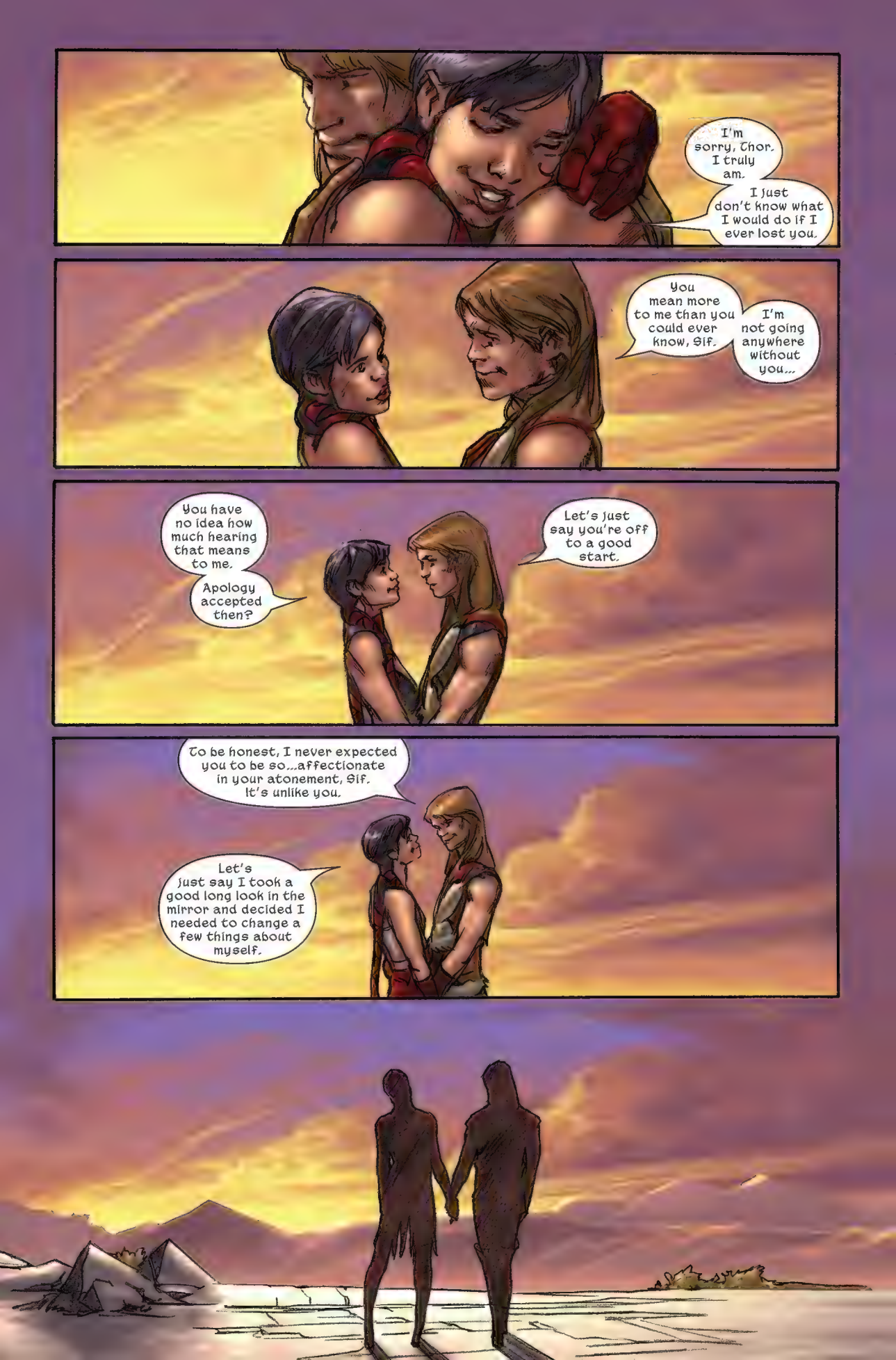
Do the women of Asgard have nothing better to do with their time?
Enough!

Sif's jealousy knows no bounds, Thor. She attacked me yet again in a fit of rage.
We must put a stop to this madwoman's antics before I'm killed.
And we shall. I have no choice but to bring this matter to my father's attention.
Just a moment, Thor. I don't think we need to involve Odin yet.
I may be new to Asgard, but I've seen more drama here these past few days than I have in all my previous years.
And it is from this drama that I think you all need...
...a break.
KKRASH!H
No!
What... what happened?!
Has the spell been broken? Thor, are you free of the love enchantment Amora placed you under?
Placed using the Mirror of Mycha which **you** stole, hoping to use it on him for yourself, Sif!
Mirror of Mycha?! You sought to control my emotions through trickery and deceit?
I would expect no less of you, Amora.
But to hear that you would lower yourself to her level, Sif.
And after all that we've shared...
Leave me be!

A few days later...
KNOCK KNOCK
Yes?
May I enter, dear Sif?
Cer... certainly, my Lady.
To what do I owe the honor of your visit?
I was hoping for a moment of your time before you left for school.
But of course.
Come. Let us sit.
Odin assures me that you've all been able to put this entire business with the Mirror of Mycha behind you.
However, for all his omniscience, my husband was never very good at reading women's hearts.
While all has been forgiven, I can sense you are still troubled by what happened between Thor and Amora. She used magic to seduce him and win his first kiss.
Lady Frigga, there's no need for you to--
Hush, my dear. Do not worry. I am not here to lecture you on love.
I simply came to tell you that any kiss taken or given under the spell of magic is not really a kiss at all.
In fact, once the spell is broken, all memories of the kiss are quickly forgotten.
What you do with this information is completely up to you, Sif.
But I'm sure Thor would like to have his memory refreshed....
...for the first time.


Later.
An interesting choice of location for an apology, Sif.
Thank you for coming, Thor. Given all the trouble I've caused, I'm almost surprised you chose to honor my request to meet.
I still hold a grudge for how you toyed with me, Sif, and that will not soon be forgotten.
But I do wish to start clearing the air between us.
I'll make no excuses for my foolishness, so I don't expect your forgiveness to come easily.
However, I want to begin by making my feelings for you perfectly clear so there can be no further doubt.


SMOOCH


I'm sorry, Thor. I truly am.
I just don't know what I would do if I ever lost you.
You mean more to me than you could ever know, Sif.
I'm not going anywhere without you...
You have no idea how much hearing that means to me.
Apology accepted then?
Let's just say you're off to a good start.
To be honest, I never expected you to be so...affectionate in your atonement, Sif. It's unlike you.
Let's just say I took a good long look in the mirror and decided I needed to change a few things about myself.

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THOR
Son of Asgard
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Welcome to a Tale of Asgard...

Thor, the prince of Asgard, is a brash and impetuous youth. Never one to consider who he is or what he has, Thor's mind is always on who he will one day be and what his future holds. He feels he lives in the shadow of his father, Odin, ruler of all Asgard, and he hopes he can escape that fate through noble deeds and valiant acts.

Legend holds that whoever can lift the mighty uru hammer Mjolnir is worthy to possess great power. However, try as he might, Thor cannot budge the hammer in the slightest. But failure has never stopped him from trying, for in his heart Thor knows that one day, he will prove himself...worthy!

WORTHY
Part One

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The Imperial Palace of Asgard...
Sif!
I don't know how you can keep a quickened pace after today's grueling lessons.
Concern for our friend pushes my limbs, Balder.
For Thor? You worry for nothing.
But he's been sulking for weeks.
Ever since Brunnhilda laughed at him for not possessing an enchanted weapon of his own...

They were innocent comments she made in jest.
Nevertheless, they've affected him deeply.
He just stays in that room staring at the hammer all day.
Yes, he and Mjolnir have a few things to work out between them.
Joke all you want, Balder, but this prolonged depression of his must come to an end.
I'm going to drag Thor out of this trophy room...kicking and screaming if I must.
I'm sure he won't put up much of a fight as all he does is sit there and--

CLINK

Thor! You've done it!
You've managed to raise Mjolnir!
Mjolnir still rests on the table while my hands remain empty. I've accomplished nothing.
All you've witnessed is yet another of my failures.

Nonsense, Thor. Failure suggests defeat, and you have yet to give up trying to raise the mighty hammer.
The fact that you are able to lift it at all is a testament to your worth.
Save your words for someone who deserves them, Balder. I've heard enough.
I wish to put this hammer out of sight and out of mind for now.
As fate would have it, we came here with that very thought.
Well then, if fate would have it, I must certainly--

Fate...
The Fates...
That's it!

What do you suppose he's gotten into his head this time?
I don't even want to know.
Come, Treibold. We ride for Nornheim this day.

Days later...
NEEIGGH
I might have to agree with you, my friend. Perhaps coming here was not the best of ideas.
But as they say, he who seeks fate, will by fate be found.
WE KNOW NOT WHO "THEY"
BE, BUT THEY DO INDEED
SPEAK THE TRUTH, THOR ODINSON.

So there is no need for introductions.
Sisters of Norn, I wish--
YOU WISH
TO KNOW
OF MJOLNIR.
YOU CAN WIN THE ENCHANTED
HAMMER OF THE ALL-FATHER--
BUT
FIRST YOU MUST FACE DEATH!
THERE IS
NOTHING UNKNOWN
TO FATE.
HOW--?

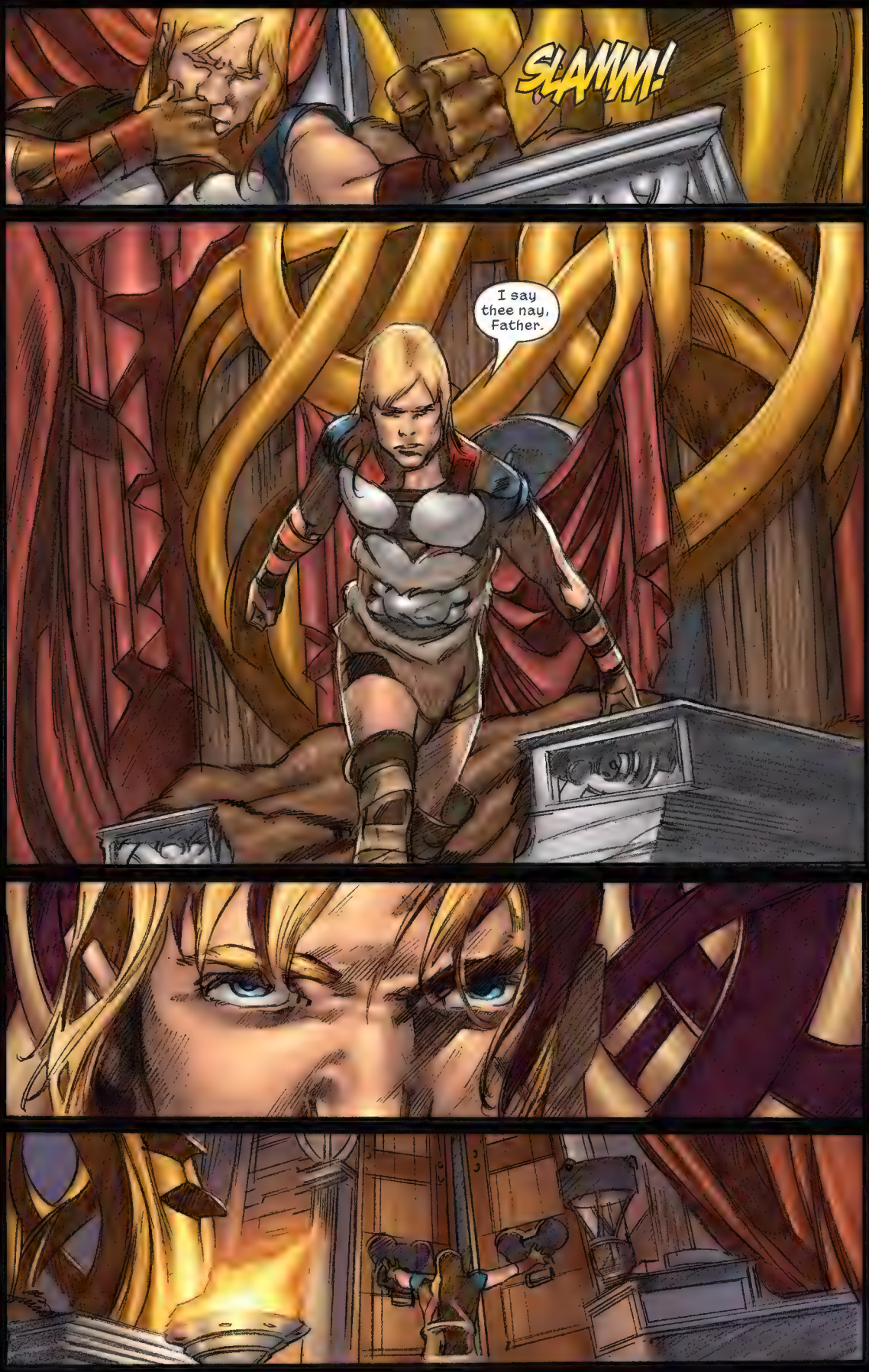
I must face death?! That is how I must prove my worth to bear Mjolnir?
But I have felt Hela's cold touch before! Was once not enough?
FWASH!
What was the meaning of their words? Must I die again in order to become worthy?
Surely this cannot mean I'm doomed?! But the Fates never lie!
So be it! Even if death stands between me and my destiny, I will not back down!
I must have the hammer!
Mjolnir will be mine!

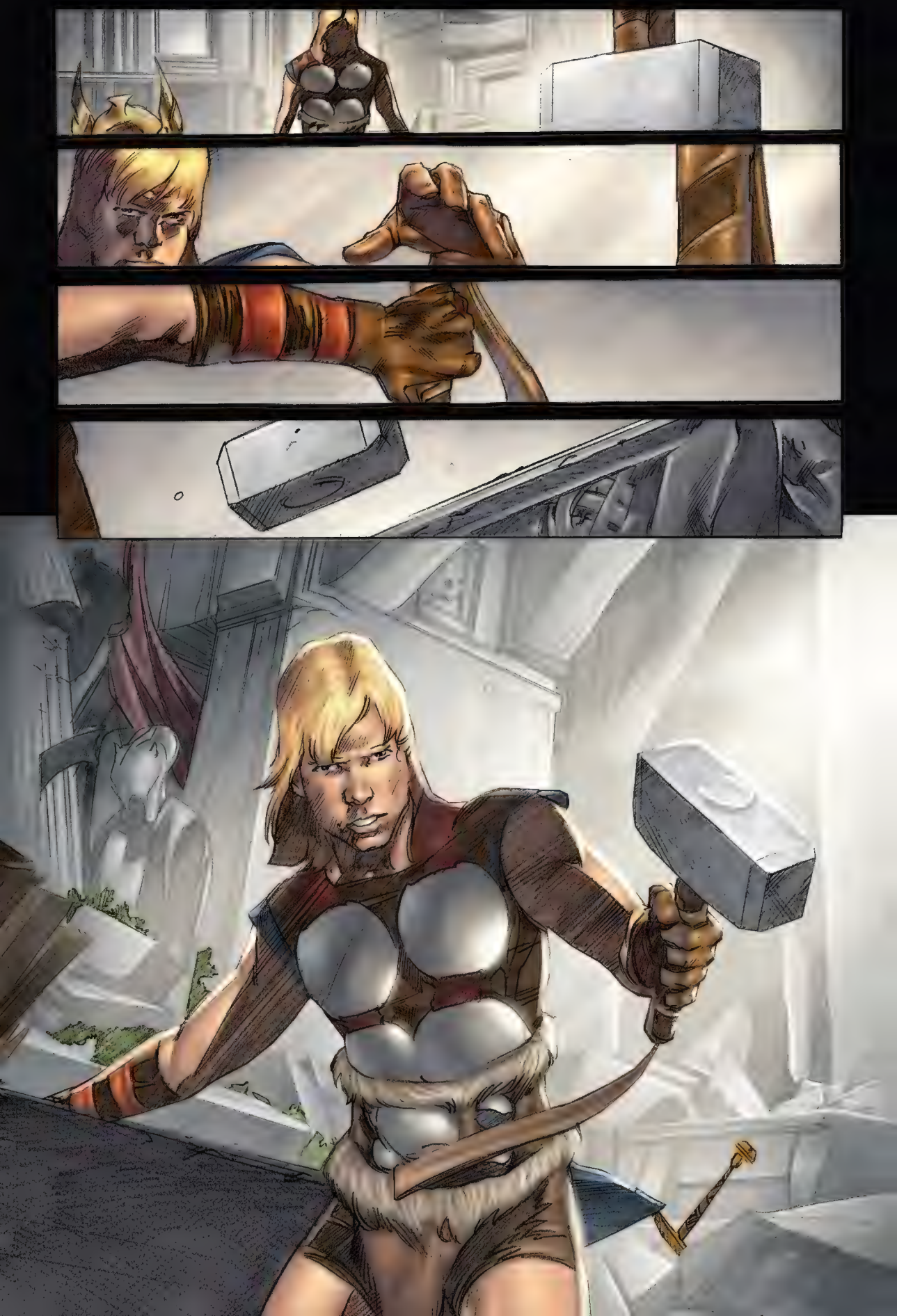
By Odin's beard!

Thor!
Balder!
Are you all right? What happened here?
Sif.
No!
The Storm Giants vanished just as quickly as they appeared.
Do not worry about me. Save your concern...
...for the one they took prisoner when they left.
Who?
Their legs may be long, but we can still follow...
Your bravery knows no bounds, my friend, but you are not going anywhere in this condition.
I'll travel to Jotunheim to show them the vengeful wrath of a son of Asgard--
You shall do no such thing!

Father!
Lord Odin, forgive me--
Save your words, Balder. You fought bravely and have nothing for which to apologize.
Your battle has ended. It is now time to heal.
Fear not, Balder, for I shall rescue Sif or die trying.
This I swear to you, my friend!
The Lady Sif shall indeed be rescued, my son, but not by your hand.
You will remain here and guard the palace as we raise the troops and go after her.
I am a warrior of Asgard and have earned the right to join in any rescue you mount!
Yes, Thor, you have fought valiantly time and again in battle.
But your feelings for Sif may cloud your judgment and make you more of a hindrance than a help.
Just as *your* feelings seek to keep me out of harm's way?!

My love for you knows no bounds, Thor. And it is true that I often seek to keep you from danger.
However, I am speaking to you now not as a father who loves his son, but as a king who is commanding his subject.
Our defenses have been weakened. We are vulnerable to further attack. I need you to stay here at the palace and protect your home.
But Father, my place is by your side in battle. How will I ever prove--
War is not a test. Blood is shed and lives are lost, but even in victory, nothing is ever proven through conflict.
But only in the honor and glory of battle can one's worth truly be judged.
Don't be a fool, son. A man's worth is not judged solely by his actions.
You'll find that it's what's in one's heart that truly makes one worthy.
What then is the worth of a broken heart?


SLAMM!
I say thee nay, Father.



LET THE STORM GIANTS BEWARE!

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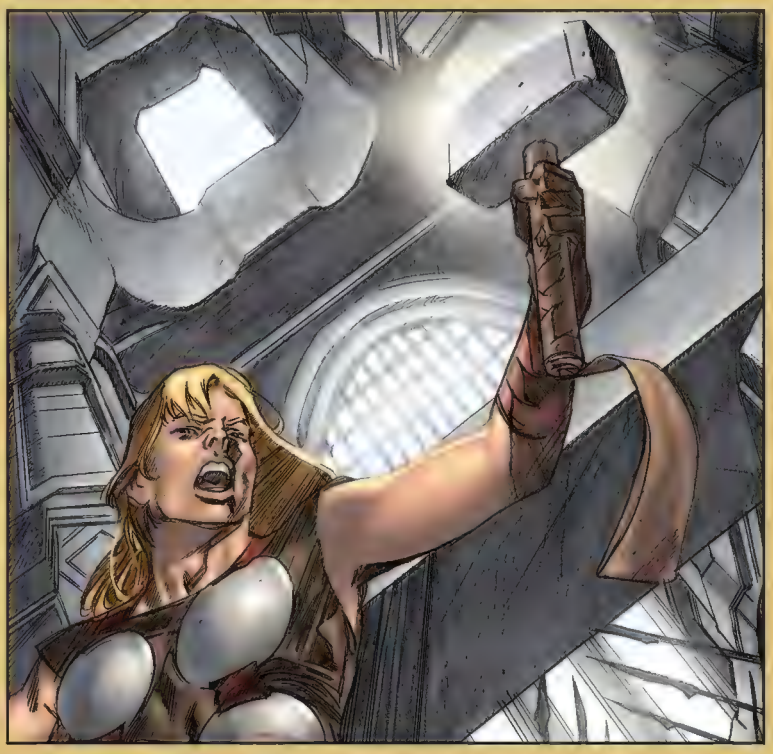
Legend holds that whoever can lift the mighty uru hammer Mjolnir is worthy to possess great power. However, try as he might, Thor has been unable to budge the hammer... until now.

When the Imperial Palace is attacked without warning and Sif is kidnapped by Storm Giants, Thor decides it is his duty to save her, despite his father's protests. Without thinking, Thor enters Odin's trophy room and effortlessly lifts Mjolnir from its resting place, not even realizing what he has just accomplished!



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To Jotunheim, Treibold!

Whoa! Hold, Treibold!
If they have harmed so much as one hair on Sif's head...

Sif will now help guide my hand.
Let us be cautious, Treibold. We have crossed too easily into Jotunheim. I would have expected better defense at the castle of Rugga, King of the Storm Giants...
I doubt that our path will remain unhindered for long.
OF THAT YOU ARE CORRECT, GODLING!

Take me to your King.
I have no time to waste on mere guards.
AND QUITE AN IMPETUOUS GODLING AT THAT!
TAKE CAUTION, BROTHER! THOUGH HIS SIZE IS SMALL HE HAS THE STRENGTH AND VALOR OF MANY MEN.
Mjolnir will help me reach Rugga's castle with minimal interference!
Turn back and allow me to pass...

... or I will shake you from the bridge on which you stand!
YOUR HAMMER CAN DO NO MORE HARM TO US THAN YOUR WEAK THREATS.
So be it!
BWOOOOMMM!

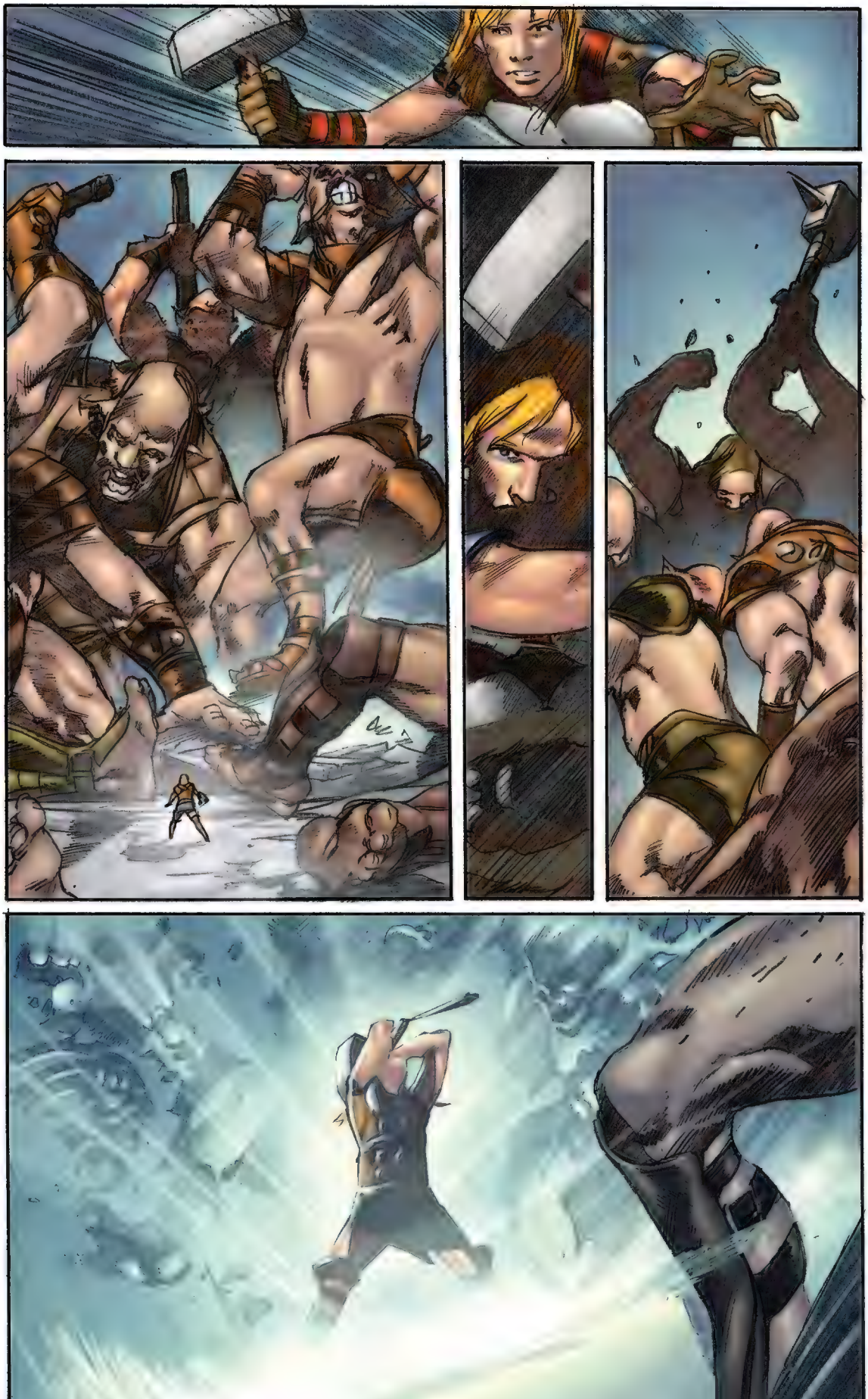
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
NOOOO!
That went better than expected.
You truly possess power undreamed of, mighty Mjolnir.

However, that power has now left me stranded with no way to reach the castle.
Unless...

I must remember that trick.

Rugga, I will have an audience with you...

...even if I must tear down your kingdom one oaf at a time.



Rugga! You would hide behind your comrades and closed doors?!
You call yourself a King?! Your minions are defeated! You can hide no more. Show yourself!
I have come for the Lady Sif! Free her or suffer the consequences!
YOU HAVE COME ALL THIS WAY FOR NAUGHT, SON OF ODIN! SIF IS NO LONGER IN JOTUNHEIM.
AS PER OUR AGREEMENT, I HAVE DELIVERED HER TO HELA, GODDESS OF DEATH, IN EXCHANGE FOR IMMORTALITY!
You struck a bargain with Death?! You would accept life at the cost of another's?!
You heartless old fool! Tell me where I can find Hela! Speak!
WHO IS MORE THE FOOL, HE WHO DEALS WITH DEATH AT HER BEHEST OR HE WHO SEEKS DEATH OF HIS OWN ACCORD?!
I WILL TELL YOU HOW TO FIND HELA, FOOLISH GODLING...
...FOR IF YOU DO MEET HER I KNOW IT WILL SPELL YOUR CERTAIN DOOM!

So I shall travel to the highest peak of Jotunheim, look for her place of power, and ask for an audience with Hela herself.
I must again face Death. Surely this is what the Fates spoke of...
The time is now.

HELA!!!
I, Thor Odinson, prince of Asgard, seek an audience with thee.
Will you not lend me your ear and listen to my plea, mistress of Death?
KRAKOOM
You managed to escape death the first time your soul lay within my grasp, Odinson...

...and it was the tears of this mortal wench that stole you back!
She shall pay for her hubris. And as for you...
No one escapes Death twice!!

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Welcome to a Tale of Asgard...

Thor, the prince of Asgard, is a brash and impetuous youth. Never one to consider who he is or what he has, Thor's mind is always on who he will one day be and what the future holds for him. He feels he lives in the shadow of his father, Odin, ruler of all Asgard, and he hopes he can escape that fate through noble deeds and valiant acts.

Legend holds that whoever can lift the mighty uru hammer Mjolnir is worthy to possess great power. However, try as he might, Thor has never been able to budge the hammer... until now.

When the Imperial Palace is attacked without warning and Sif is kidnapped by Storm Giants, Thor decides it is his duty to save her, despite his father's protests. Without thinking, he enters Odin's trophy room and effortlessly lifts Mjolnir from its resting place, not even realizing what he has just accomplished!

With the mighty uru hammer now in hand, Thor sets off to Jotunheim to rescue Sif from the Storm Giants. Thor defeats their assembled forces, and discovers that Rugga, King of the Giants, has bartered Sif's life to Hela, the Goddess of Death!

In order to win Sif back, Thor must face the cold touch of Death herself!

WORTHY
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Stan Lee and Jack Kirby

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Sif!
Release her, Hela!
HAHAHAHAHA
Foolish godling! You dare to defy the Goddess of Death?!
I have escaped your grasp once and shall do so again!

KRA-KOOM

No.
Oh, yes.

You may have survived the icy touch of my hand the first time I came for you, Odinson...
...but that will not happen again!
THUNK

KRAK!
Thor! No!

Set me free, you cursed witch.
As you wish.
THUMP
Go then, to the side of your prince.
He may yet still draw breath...

...but his life now belongs to me!
Thor...? Thor!
Open your eyes, Thor. Please get up... for me.
After all we've been through, our lives cannot end this way. There's so much more I wish to share with you.
So much more I know we can accomplish in life... together.
I'm afraid any hope you might have of a future with the Odinson will not come to pass.

You heartless monster!
Why do you so desperately seek Thor's death?! What has he done to incur your wrath?
The sins of the father are passed down to his sons.
So, you seek revenge against Odin by claiming the life of his son?!
Indeed. Bringing pain and suffering into the life of an immortal is no easy task.
The loss of his whelp will be a blow from which even the All-Father of Asgard cannot recover.
Never! I will not allow you to take him from me!
Very well. I had hoped to keep you alive so you could tell Odin the tale of his son's demise, but there are other ways of accomplishing that.
Just as you did in life, you can now stand by your beloved's side in *death!*
No...

Only one of us will be joining you in Hel this day.

Sif is innocent. Her death will serve you no purpose.
Do with me what you will--but free her!
I offer myself to you willingly in exchange for her life!
Thor, no! You mustn't--

You would sacrifice yourself so... for the life of another?
Yes, Sif's life means more to me than my own.
Let me be the one to feel your fatal touch.
Never have I heard such an offer.
Then never have you known love.
So be it!

I...I cannot do it!
I cannot take a life so noble.
Your sacrifice does me no good!
Knowing you had given your life in exchange for that of another would stir compassion in Odin's heart. He would be proud of your actions.
You would have died with honor. That is not the effect I want!
Go, Thor, son of Odin. Go and take Sif with you.
You have earned your life this day... delaying Death yet again.
But be warned...

Our paths will cross again...
...as all roads eventually lead to Hel.
Sif!
Thor...

You would have given your life for mine...
And I would again... without regret. I spoke the truth to Hela and meant every word.
But come now, we should continue this conversation in more pleasant surroundings.
How do you propose we get down from this mountaintop? Fly?
So mighty Mjolnir is yours. You've finally proven yourself worthy?

I have now.
The End

Thor
&
Loki
THOR
LOKI

Sif

Sif & Balder

Odín
Odín

Issue #1, Page 7 Inks

Issue #5, Page 23 Inks

Issue #6, Page 4 Inks

EXPLORE THE EARLY YEARS OF THE GOD OF THUNDER IN THIS ADVENTURE FULL OF MARVEL MYTH AND MAGIC!

Join young Thor and his godly companions, Balder and Sif, as they travel the mystical land of Asgard on a quest of cosmic proportions. When Odin, the All-Father, sends his favorite son to gather four mystical elements that he will use to craft a powerful new weapon, not even Ragnarok will be able to stop the boy who would be king! Then, it's back to school for Thor, Balder and Sif — but when you're in training to be a warrior, study hall isn't so quiet! The lives of the three young friends take an interesting turn when Amora the Enchantress enters the picture! Plus: Thor grew up with the belief that he would one day wield the mighty uru hammer, Mjolnir. But as the years pass and he becomes increasingly frustrated by his inability to achive his goal, Thor comes to question what makes a person worthy. But his questions will have to wait, as Sif is kidnapped by Frost Giants!

MARVEL

Collecting *Thor: Son of Asgard #1-12*, written by Akira Yoshida and illustrated by Greg Tocchini.

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